THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 10TH MAY.

IN PORT BLAIR and the Nicobar Islands there are 7,683 native and 12 Christian convicts; of these 1,211 are ticket-of-leave men, nearly one-half of the entire number of the male convicts are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and it is satisfactory to learn that most of them are doing well, though many began with little or no capital. The quantity of land under cultivation held by ticket-holders or self-supporters on rent is 1,316 beegahs, the rent-free area held by them being 1,474 beegahs.

IT IS stated in the last Annual Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands that sixty-one marriages were sanctioned during the past year, bringing the number of married convicts now in the settlement up to 996. The restriction placed upon marriage by the new rules, which require a woman to remain five years at labor before she becomes eligible for marriage, is said to have a marked effect on applications for marriage. The probationary period of five years is however too long. As the Superintendent justly remarks, "the effect of these marriages from a moral and social point of view so far outweighs even considerations of discipline that he would like to see the probationary period of labor reduced from five to four years, which would be a compromise between the old and the new rules."

THE ABORIGINES of the Andaman Islands seem to shun the English. The Superintendent remarks:

"The Deputy Superintendent and Mr. Homfrey visited all the haunts of the Andamanese on the northern islands, but did not once succeed in effecting a meeting with them.

The season for visiting the coasts had almost passed away before a steamer became available, and thus it happened that there was no time for ascertaining with any degree of certainty why the islanders who met us on friendly terms the previous year avoided us on the present occasion with such extraordinary unanimity.

If our knowledge of the habits of the Andamanese did not preclude the idea that their avoidance of us was the result of a general combination, it would seem as if the tribes to the north of Middle Straits had with one consent agreed to hold no intercourse with us or the Andamanese who are in constant communication with us.

The unfortunate collision which took place in December last between the Port Mouat tribe and a party of Interview Islanders has no doubt influenced the conduct of the latter, and perhaps some of the tribes in their immediate vicinity; but it is impossible to believe that the people of the North Andamans and east coast could be influenced in any way by the grievances of the Interview Islanders, who are as little known to them as the tribes under our immediate protection at Port Blair.

Every endeavour has been made to restore the good understanding which has for some time existed between the people of Interview Island and our friends, and it is hoped that our efforts will eventually prove successful although they have as yet produced no visible effect."

The taming of these wild children of nature is a social problem of great importance.

IT APPEARS that some Andamanese have been brought within the pale of civilization. We are told that the Andamanese, who under Mr. Homfrey's auspices have been employed in various useful occupations during the past year, are happy and contented with their lot. They work in boats, look after the gardens which they rent from Government, tend cattle, rear pigs and poultry, and make themselves generally useful, besides acting as police and hunting up runaways when so required. Indeed, the value of the Andamanese in this latter respect, says the Superintendent, cannot be overrated, as they are the only real security we have against escapes by land.

THE AGRICULTURAL resources of the Andaman Islands seem to be very great. Coffee is cultivated on Mount Harriett made memorable by the sad end of Lord Mayo. The outturn (the first) obtained since the plantation was opened, was 256lbs. of coffee of good quality. Fifteen beegahs of partially cleared land have been added to the original plantation, and the gardens will in future years be steadily increased, as there seems little doubt of success. At present the little nursery is thriving, and the soil about Mount Harriett seems to be well adapted for the cultivation of the berry.

THE OPERATIONS in the settlement connected with paddy cultivation give the following result, exclusive of what was raised by convict farmers on the northern stations:

	Quantity. Mds.	Value. Rs.
Southern stations	5,584	6,980
Northern do.	583	747
Viper and Port Mouat	2,276	2,916
TOTAL ...	8,443	10,643

ARROWROOT is also grown in the settlement. More attention is to be paid in future years to this cultivation, as the soil and climate are favorable, and it is hoped that the settlement will be in a position to supply all the requirements of the hospitals in Bengal from the crop of 1874-75. The soil is also suited to the cultivation of sugar-cane, but the Settlement officers do not encourage this cultivation, as the present supply far exceeds local demand, and it does not pay to export it to India.

THE CULTIVATION of tobacco was taken in hand in the southern stations of the settlement as an experimental measure, more with a view to test the capabilities of the soil than as a remunerative crop. The result has proved that the soil, when carefully prepared and attended to, is capable of yielding a good return. The cultivation of this plant will be undertaken on a more extensive scale in future.

TUESDAY, 11TH MAY.

THE FOLLOWING INTERESTING account of the people of the Nicobar Islands is given in the annual report of Mr. Brookes, Assistant Superintendent of the Nicobars:

"Judging from their appearance, they evidently belong to the Malay type, although now and again individuals are met with who possess something of the Negro cast of features. While the complexion of some is similar to the Malays, others are quite black-skinned. They are not a tall people: their average height is between 5 feet 4 inches and 5 feet 8 inches. Their characteristics are high cheek bones, flat noses, and thick lips from the practice of continually chewing betel-nut mixed with lime manufactured from shells picked up on the surrounding coral reefs. Their teeth are caked over with a coating of the mixture, until they appear as if blended into one mass. This caking over the teeth is of a blackish color and perfectly hard. The disgusting practice adds very much to their naturally unprepossessing appearance, and renders them more hideous than they really are. The propensity is early initiated into them, children beginning to chew as soon as they can eat, and meeting with every encouragement from their parents and elders. I asked one of the most intelligent of the natives who visited me during my stay here why he continued the practice. While he admitted that it was a disfigurement, he explained to me that if he did not chew the nut and get his teeth into the same state as others, the fair sex would have nothing to say to him, and he would consequently never succeed in getting a wife, so that it would appear that the practice is looked upon as a recommendation to favor among the women. I have seen the caked covering of the teeth protruding so much in an outward direction that the lips could not close.

I have been much struck with the disparity I have observed between the sexes. It is rare to see more than four or five women in a village where 40 or 50 adult males reside, and this scarcity of females is again observable among the children. I have seen a good many boys of all ages, but there are but few girls. The birth of a girl is looked upon as quite an event, and is a cause of rejoicing for the whole village. The people themselves admit the great paucity of females, and the difficulty they experience in obtaining wives, having to resort to the more distant islands to purchase them.

The marriage tie is purely a commercial transaction. There is no religious form to be gone through, no feast, no rejoicing—the woman is bought just as one would barter for cocoanuts.

The matrimonial arrangement is by no means minding, and should the parties not suit each other, the partnership is mutually dissolved, and both are at liberty to form a fresh connexion, the man, however, receiving the value of the woman from the aspirant to her hand. These dissolutions of partnership are very rare. In the event of the death of a husband the woman is expected to mourn for twelve moons, a period corresponding to one year, at the expiration of which time she can marry again.

The offspring of these marriages are not numerous, owing to a great measure, no doubt, to the practice of forcing the testicles into the abdomen and keeping them there confined tightly by the narrow strip of cloth invariably worn by the men.

I have observed that this forcing of the testes is not universal, as I have seen some men with those parts fully developed. This leads me to suppose that it is only some of the men who are capable of procuring offspring, and that the practice referred to renders the others impotent. Probably the practice may have been introduced owing to the scarcity of females.

The love of the people for spirits, and the large quantities consumed, is another cause for the evident gradual extinction of the race, and no doubt so long as an unlimited supply of ardent spirits of the worst kind is allowed to be imported into these islands by the vessels engaged in the cocoanut trade, so year by year will the pernicious effect of white rum become more and more visible. Legislation should interfere and put a stop to the ruination of the people's health.

THE SAME OFFICER gives the following account of the Nicobarees mode of roasting:

"The Nicobarees way of roasting a pigeon or fowl has something so novel about it that I will give a short description of the process. After strippling off the feathers a piece of bamboo is thrust through the bird's throat, and it is held by the bamboo over a blazing fire, It must be remembered that the bird is intact, with the exception of its feathers. The entrails remain *in statu quo*. When half done the bird is split open with a dao from the chest downwards, and the two sections are bent downwards so as to expose the entrails to the flames, It is then again placed over the fire until the inside is sufficiently roasted, or I should say burnt, and then torn in pieces and passed round. The entrails are esteemed an especial delicacy."

WE TAKE from the *Delhi Gazette* the following Cabul news:

"Ursulla Khan, Ghilzaee, with troops arrived at Lallpoorah. He sent word to Nouroze Khan to return to his place with his sons to receive the khilluts which the Amir had been pleased to send them. The Ghilzaee chief also assured Noureze Khan that the Amir had desired him to restore him (Nouroze Khan) to the Khanee of Lallpoorah and to send his two sons to Cabul.

"You will not catch me, as you did Sirdar Yakoob Khan,' was the reply Nouroze Khan sent to Ursulla Khan. 'Do you think anybody will trust you, after you had taken an oath on the Koran and yet got Sirdar Yakoob Khan in trouble."

The Paishkhidmut of the Amir says that the Amir is thinking of doing away with all the Mohmund chiefs in the Lallpoorah territory and appointing his own men in all departments; but the Amir will not, be able to gain his object, as there are two hundred thousand Mohmundees in Lallpoorah and they would not like to be governed by any other tribe. The Amir has made a mistake in interfering with Lallpoorah matters.

Nouroze Khan is encamped in a certain place and has commenced plundering travellers; the roads are unsafe and merchants are suffering.

News has been received from Jellalabad that the Mohmundees are joining Nouroze Khan in numbers and that he is committing depredations on merchants and travellers."

IT WILL doubtless be remembered that the Viceroy in his speech delivered at the Delhi Durbar, in alluding to the new judicial scheme for the Punjab, pointed out that one of its features was that it would afford a greater opportunity for *honorable employment under Government of the well educated natives of the Province.* The *Indian Public Opinion* says:

"Seventy-two such opportunities are afforded by the newly created posts of Munsiffs. We are curious to know how these will be filled. If we believe what is rumoured, the names of a certain number of candidates have been submitted by the Judges of the Chief Court to the Government and have been approved by the Secretariat. Several of these, we are informed, are drawn from the amlah of the district and divisional courts of the Punjab, and others are a few favored Court Inspectors belonging to the Police. Neither of these classes of society are remarkable as fields abounding with well-educated natives, nor are they altogether in the enjoyment of popular confidence or respect. We of course cannot, without seeing the list we have referred to, make any further comments, but if the rumours we have heard be upon good foundation, we can only say that there does not appear to be much chance of the Viceroy's promise being fulfilled. The system of appointing Court Inspectors to Tehsildarships we have always objected to. These men have no knowledge of any but the rudiments of criminal law, and have been trained to look upon the procuring of a conviction as the *summum bonum* of their cloth. They are profoundly ignorant of civil law, and as Munsiffs will simply be altogether at sea. However, this does not matter in a provinces where men without previous training are believed to become fitted for any work, whether judicial or in any other branch of the service requiring technical knowledge, simply by appointment."

We believe several pleaders of the Bengal High Court have applied, but the Punjab Government has not even condescended to acknowledge their applications. We do hope that the new judicial reform will not be marred by the abuse of patronage by the local Government.

THE FRENCH mint is busily engaged in coining the new 5 and 20 franc pieces. The latter are stamped on the obverse with the design used by Dupre in 1793. They represent the winged genius of France engraving the new constitution on a tablet of brass; in front, is the Gallic cock, and behind, the Republican fasces, surmounted by the hand of Justice. On Dupre's coins, the fasces were surmounted by a Phrygian cap, and the inscription was "*Regne de la Loi,*" but on the pieces now being struck there are only the words "*Republique Francais.*" The reverse is stamped with the ordinary wreath and the words "*Liberte, Egalite, Fraetrnite.*" 75,000 5-franc pieces and 2,000,000 20-franc pieces are coined daily.

AN AMERICAN gentlman, named Bishop, started on a voyage from Philadelphia to the Gulf of Mexico in a canoe which is made of paper, being of what is known as the Nautilus mode designed by the Rev. Baden Powel of England, and is an improvement on the well-known Rob-Roy type. The paper used in the construction of the canoe is tempered with linen, is about one-sixth of an inch thick, and has been moulded while in a pulpy state upon a wooden model. It was next highly polished, varnished, made water-tight, and fitted up with a light framework, having a seat attached. It is 14 feet in length, 28 inches broad, and 82 inches deep, amidships. Mast, oars, paddle, and shift weigh 73 lbs. gross.

WEDNESDAY, 12TH MAY.

SOME RATHER startling proofs of the progress of Ritualism in London and the suburbs may be gathered from "Mackeson's Guide." It appears from the data given by this publication, that Eucharistic vestments are now worn in 36 churches against 30 in 1874; incense is burnt in 17 churches against 14 last year, and altar candles for ceremonial purposes in 58 as against 36 churches.

AMERICAN ingenuity has discovered how to make jelly from shoe leather, and coffee from linen. The *Scientific American* gives the following recipe for the preparation of these delicacies:—

"Some time ago, Dr. Vande regaled some friends, not merely with boot jelly but with shirt coffee, and the repast was pronounced by all partakers excellent. The Doctor tells us that he made the jelly by first cleaning the boot, and subsequently boiling it with soda, under a pressure of about two atmospheres. The tannic acid in the leather, combined with salt, made tannate of soda, and the gelatin rose to the top, whence it was removed and dried. From this last, with suitable flavouring material, the jelly was readily concocted. The shirt coffee, incidently mentioned above, was sweetened with cuff and collar sugar, both coffee and sugar being produced in the same way. The linen (after, of course washing) was treated with nitric acid, which acting on the lignite contained in the fibre, produced glucose, or grape sugar. This roasted, made an excellent imitation coffee, which is an addition of unroasted glucose readily sweetened."

America is really go-ahead!

THE LONDON FIGARO calls Sir George Campbell a "Political Chameleon," and makes the following analysis of his Kirkcaldy address:

Sir George is a Liberal, and is disgusted with those who "call themselves Liberals and are no better than Tories." Liberal cheers.

"Sir George is a Conservative, and admits that "a great many men in the Conservative ranks are very liberal in their ideas and conduct." Conservative cheers.

Sir George is a Radical. He is in favor of the assimilation of the county franchise to that of borough household suffrage. In his opinion, "land is not property, but a gift of God to the nation." Radical cheers.

Sir George "does not think the country is yet ripe for the disestablishment of the Church of Scotland." State Church cheers.

But "as the electors of Kirkcaldy favor disestablishment he will, if returned to Parliament, as representing them, vote for it in and out of season." Disestablishment cheers.

That is smart. As the country is not ripe for disestablishment it is no matter if he votes for it, and so he will please both parties. The principles of the distinguished trader in politics are those of the majority.

Sir George hopes yet "to follow Mr. Gladstone as a leader." How a man is to follow as a leader we don't know. Never mind. Sir George is for the late Liberal chief. Gladstonite cheers.

Sir George "has also an admiration for Mr. Disraeli." Disraelite cheers.

Sir George said "he had never been much of a party man and especialy now he was not." We think that he is very much of a party man, because he seems to side with all parties. He is, judging from his speech, a Liberal, Conservative-Radical."

The critic on the speech rejoices to think that in his anxiety to secure the welfare of the many, Sir George has not been neglectful of his own. This is gross calumny. The *Civil* and *Military Gazette*, from which we take the extract, says that "Sir George Campbell has managed to make so many officials and newspapers—who do not know him—believe in him as a political genius, that it will be gratifying to those who *do* know him; to see him more correctly estimated as what he ever was and ever will be—a Political Charlatan."

TO THOSE who clamour at the officers of the Indian Civil Service being underpaid, we commend the following passage culled from the columns of the *Madras Mail* which referring to Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, says, that between March 1855, and October 1872, he drew in salary only £77,000, and he is now returning to India to hold for five years an appointment that will give him only £40,000 more. So for 22½ years' service he will receive in all only £117,000, and at the end thereof have a miserable pension of £1,000 a year. This is really too bad.

IT SEEMS that the death of Lord Hobart is credited by some to the Indian climate. A local contemporary says that only two retired Governors of Madras are living—Sir Charles Trevelyan, and Lord Napier. But the Marquis of Tweeddale, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Madras 1842-48, still survives to point the moral that Dr. Druitt has enforced on the British medical mind that Madras, on the whole, has a salubrious climate. The disease which has deprived us of Lord Hobart slays thousands yearly in England. It carried off the Prince Consort, and nearly slew the Prince of Wales, the Czarevitch and Prince Leopold.

THE TIMES says that Prince Bismark is meditating a residence in England and that enquiries have been made in the Isle of Wight for a residence suitable to the requirements of the Chancellor, who will spend some time in the island for the benefit of his health.

IT IS stated as probable that the Prince of Wales on his visit to India will assume the title of "The Crown Prince of India," and that a special grant will be voted by the House of Commons to enable His Royal Highness to undertake the journey with befitting pomp and splendour. The programme of the Royal visit is not yet known, but we hope His Royal Highness will first come to the capital of the empire.

THURSDAY, 13TH MAY.

WE ARE glad to observe that Babu Ishur Chunder Mitter has been again posted to the sub-division of Baraset. We hope he will not be again removed as soon as a covenanted Assistant Magistrate casts his longing eyes upon it.

THE BEHAR HERALD states that the Indigo case of Behea has been disposed of. Our contemporary says that "the version of the Factory people was that the deceased had poisoned himself. But this absurd story, though supported, we hear, by the local medical officers, has turned out, on chemical examination, to be false and one and all the accused have been convicted. But what punishment have they received for the daring crime they committed? The principal offender, namely the Jemadar of the Factory, has been sentenced to two months' imprisonment, and his accomplices to two weeks' imprisonment each." The punishment awarded seems to be ludicrously light. We wish our contemporary would publish the judgment of the Magistrate.

THE BICHARUK has been incorporated with the *Samaj Durpan*. The last named paper is conducted with spirit and is promising.

THE PARIS CORRESPONDENT of a morning contemporary says that no one has ever witnessed the King of Italy eating, save his intimate friends. The reason is said to be this; he has an enormous pair of moustaches—"wild cats" as they are called, each seven inches long; now it is next to morally impossible to partake of soup, &c, with these impediments; so when his Majesty eats, he does so alone, a valet passing under his chin a thin napkin, which keeps his moustaches in a vertical position towards his temples, instead of the usual horizontal manner. This could not be attempted in public, as ridiculous; so Victor Emmanuel enjoys his repasts in private, and sits at banquets leaning on the hilt of his sword.

MR. JOSEPH STURGE of Birmingham communicates to the *Times* the discovery of a boiling lake 2,000 feet above the sea level and two miles in circumference, discovered by Drs. Freland and Nicholls, Captain Gardiner and Mr. Watt, in the island of Dominica, near the town of Roseau, on a steep and forest-clad mountain. When the clouds of sulphurious steam were cleared away for an instant by the wind, a mound of water ten feet high, which was caused by violent ebullition, was seen. The margins of the lake are formed of sulphur beds, and at the exit is a water-fall of great height.

IT IS ESTIMATED that the sewage of Paris, with its two million inhabitants, is sufficient to fertilize 16,000 acres. Hitherto most of the sewage was given away or thrown into the canals and the Seine. *La Sante Publique* states that experiments carried on at Gennevilliers have converted 4,000 acres of sandy waste into rich gardens, and it is proposed now to utilize all the sewage in this manner.

THE INDIAN PUBLIC OPINION gives the following to shew how "English roughness" produces "Indian subserviency":

"Sir," said a Teshildar to a district officer in the Panjab, "whenever a regiment comes through, I do just whatever the Colonel Sahib or any other Sahib tells me. However unjust his order I obey it. If I did not he would report me—he would be backed up by his serjeants, who don't know a word of the language, and I—what could I say? I should be disgraced. It is better for me to keep every thing quiet, and I prevent all chance of my being insulted by giving two or three rupees as a present to the serjeant whose good word is worth having."

Our contemporary thus moralizes on the above:

"Each individual one of us whose lot is cast in this land may well ask ourselves the question, how far the blame of the faults we see in our native subjects does not lie with ourselves. If that question can be answered satisfactorily—well,—but when it cannot, let those whose consciences tell them they have been hitherto in the wrong, strive for the future to take for their models those great Englishmen who have been gentlemen in the strictest sense of the word, who have been honourable, generous and polished, and to whose characters peevish fretfulness and irritableness are foreign, and who studiously avoiding to give offence to others are habitually liberal in conduct, and in argument.

Were natives more generally thrown into contact with men such as these, there would be little need for the cringing and sycophancy which are but the tokens of an enslaved and abject race."

Would that such sentiments were general among Englishmen in India.

FRIDAY, 14TH MAY.

THE VANITY FAIR, supposed to be the organ of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, reads the following moral of the Baroda trial: "It is to be hoped that the facts elicited by Serjeant Ballantine at the trial of the Guicowar of Baroda will make the Indian Government more careful in the choice of the residents it appoints to the Courts of native princes. Colonel Phayre appears to have been a peppery hypochondriacal gentleman, who passed his time in feeing the Guicowar's menials to tell him tales about their master."

THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS compose the Mission to His Majesty the King of Burma: Sir T. D. Forsyth C. B., K. C. S. I., Envoy on the part of the Viceroy and Governor General of India; Lieutenant-Colonel H. T Duncan, Madras Staff Corps, Member of the Mission; Captain T. H. Forsyth, Her Majesty's 62nd Foot, Secretary.

THE INDIAN PUBLIC OPINION furnishes the following frontier intelligence:

"Hafeezoola, a resident of Kafoordhurri, informs our correspondent that on the 1st May Arsulla Khan, Gilzai, with other Sirdars and the troops under them who were sent to Zilla Sungerhar, Mouza Katoo, for the purpose of clearing the road, preventing further raids, and recovering the property taken away by Nowroz Khan, met the latter's troops and an engagement took place. On reaching the river side the Amir's forces fired on Nowroz Khan's men, killed three, seized a boat, and got back the property he had taken. Nowroz Khan, who was away at Chaeri, on hearing this, procured reinforcements and attacked the Amir's forces, who he is said to have defeated recovering his booty, taking one of the boats belonging to the Amir's troops which he destroyed. It is also said that about 7 or 8 men were killed on the Amir's side, and that the property which was retaken was distributed among the followers of the late chief of Lalpoorah. Nowroz Khah is now staying at one side of the river, and the Amir's forces on the other."

THE MANCHESTER GUARDIAN'S London Correspondent says that the Indian Tariff Committee have recommended the Viceroy to retain the import duties on English piece-goods and yarns, and have at the same time proposed the repeal of the export duty of 21 per cent. on Indian cotton manufactures.

WITH a view to the part likely to be played by fireworks in the entertainment and celebrations during the visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales to India, Messrs. C. T. Brock and Co., the foremost of British or as the *Times of India* says European pyrotechnists, have submitted to Her Majesty's Government a scheme for a series of magnificent firework displays such as those which they gave at the Crystal Palace near London by Royal command in honor of the visit of the Sultan, the Shah, and other crowned personages. It is stated that Messrs. C. T. Brock and Co., propose to come to India in October, bringing with them enormous quantities of their choicest and coloured fire-works and plants, sufficient to enable them to carry out a number of displays on closely successive dates in far distant places.

THE LONDON PAPERS contain an account of the marvellous feat of Captain Boyton in crossing the British Channel by swimming. On the 10th April at twenty minutes past two in the morning, the intrepid American, arrayed in his life-saving costume, set off from the Admiralty Pier, at Dover, upon his unprecedented journey to Boulogne. He was for nine hours on water, and on landing received an ovation rarely accorded to a crowned head. The curiosity and interest of those about him having been satisfied Captain Boyton was allowed to go to bed; and slept soundly until next morning, when he was out walking by six o'clock and received telegrams of felicitation from the Queen, the Lord Mayor of London, and a number of other distinguished well-wishers. Colonel Forney, U. S., Commissioner for Europe, despatched the following telegram to the American Legation in Paris:

"*Boulogne*; April 11, 2-25 P. M. Captain Boyton crossed the Channel magnificently. He carried the flag of the American Centennial Exhibition all the way, and has presented it to me, to deliver to the Centennial Commission.—COLONEL FORNEY, U. S., Commissioner for Europe."

SATURDAY, 15TH MAY.

SOMETIME AGO we noticed that some jotedars had opened a cut in an embankment called Bhobanipore in the sub-division of Baraset, which flooded 2000 bigas, of land and destroyed the crops thereon; they were prosecuted before the Joint Magistrate, and sentenced to 9 months' imprisonment and to a fine of rupees five hundred each, but they were released on appeal by the Session Judge; the suffering ryots brought against them a civil suit for damages, which has been decreed by the Munsif. The ryots have now petitioned the Government for the protection of the embankment; they are willing to bear the necessary charges, if the embankment be taken over under the new Act. We hope their prayer will be complied with

WE HAVE received the prospectus of "a gallery of portraits of the clever men of Bengal with short sketches of their lives by an Old Indian."

THE RANGOON GAZETTE says: "The latest advices from Mandalay state that the King has issued a proclamation in Mandalay enjoining his subjects as well as foreign traders not to stop their business transactions, but to carry on their trading operations in the usual way, promising them at the same time

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that on no account would he fight the English, and that their rights and privileges would in every way be protected." We do hope that the Burman dispute will be settled amicably.

THE INDIAN STATESMAN says, "trade low and dull, employment scarce" is the cry one hears on every side. "It is a melancholy fact," our contemporary adds, "that at the present time there are in Calcutta a large number of Christians, both European and Eurasian, in a sad and destitute state, bordering upon starvation, for mere want of employment." Our contemporary has not had the kindness to allude to the natives who have been similarly thrown adrift. Their number is far greater than that of Europeans and Eurasians thrown out of employ.

THE BEHAR HERALD understands that Mr. MacDonnell, Officiating Magistrate of Durbhanga, has been appointed on special duty to enquire into, and report on, the population of the Behar Districts with reference to the food-grains grown in them.

THE MAHOMEDAN COMMUNITY of Madras have honored themselves by coming forward to honor the memory of the late Lord Hobart, who evinced the most lively sympathy with them. They have voted an address of condolence to Lady Hobart and resolved to found a few scholarships to be called after the name of the deceased Governor.

IT IS stated that Mr. William Simpson, the well-known and accomplished artist of the *Illustrated London News*, will come out to India on the occasion of the Prince of Wales's visit.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

Rome, 11th May.—Last week's debate in the Italian Parliament resulted in a motion blaming the leniency of Government towards the Bishops. Minghetti promised to introduce legislation to protect the State, and administer ecclesiastical property; relations between Italy and Government are excellent; a vote of confidence has been passed.

Berlin, 11th May.—The Czar of Russia, accompanied by Prince Gortschakoff, visited Prince Bismarck immediately on his arrival here. A pacific influence is generally attributed to the Czar's visit. The Chambers have voted the suppression of religious orders throughout Prussia.

London, 13th May.—In the House of Commons Mr. Bourke announced that the Government had received to-day such entirely satisfactory assurances from Berlin, that the Government considered that no cause existed to apprehend any disturbance of peace.

London, 12th May.—The Russian Government has granted the concessions for a railway between Tiflis Bakon and Tiflis Djulfa. The South Wales colliers are resuming work on the masters' condition.

London, 13th May. The Marquis Harcourt has been appointed French Ambassador at London. The semi-official press of Berlin emphatically affirm the pacific intentions of Germany, and declare that the relations with France were never more friendly since 1870.

London, 14th May, 1875.—During the recent alarm concerning the unsatisfactory state of the relations between France and Germany, England sent the latter a communication expressing a very decisive opinion respecting the maintenance of peace to this a friendly and satisfactory reply has been received. France has thanked England for the attitude adopted the Czar has gone to Ems. A perfect understanding exist between Russia and Germany.

Oxford university has resolved to arrange that residence at Oxford shall be provided for candidates for the Indian Civil Service and to provide the necessary special teaching the Vice Chancellor has been authorized to request the Secretary of State for India to take into consideration the selection of candidates at such an age as will allow them a three years course at the university before proceeding to India.

WE ARE glad to learn that Mr. Rughunath Rao has been appointed to officiate as Minister of His Highness the Maharajah Holkar during the absence of Sir Madhava Rao. We congratulate His Highness on this wise selection.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the undermentioned publications and periodicals: 1. *Banga Mahila*, a monthly Magazine published under the authority of the Committee of the Chorebagan Female School 2. The Battle of Plasesy, a poem, by Nobin Chunder Sen. 3. Half-yearly report of the Chamber of Commerce. 4. Bharat Duckhini, a drama, by Haran Chunder Ghose. 5. Nabanasa, by Kanilal Sen. 6. Proceedings of the Asiatic Society, April 1815. 7. Statistics of Taxation relating to British Burma. 8. Report of Police Administration, Central Provinces. 9. Report of Judicial Administration (criminal) of the Central Provinces. 10. The Wonderful Medicine of a Venerable Hindu hermit, by Babu Hemchunder Banherjea.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MAY 17, 1875.

THE RENT LAW.

IT is a curious coincidence that both zemindars and ryots or rather their friends seem to be unanimous in demanding a change in the Rent Law. The zemindars say that Act X. of 1859 has taken away their old rights, while the friends of the ryots urge that that Act has not gone far enough in improving the position of the bulk of the tenantry. The *Friend of India*, new series, says: "Act X. of 1859 may, in one sense, be called a piece of class legislation, for its basis is the division of the ryots into three great classes. To the first, it gave perpetuity of tenure, fixity of rent, the right of alienation, all that the most enthusiastic believer in the utility of peasant proprietors could ask. They are now the real and the absolute owners of the soil, subject to a quit-rent as the zemindars are subject to the State revenue. Next to them, though at a long interval, come the occupancy ryots. These cannot be ejected, and their holdings are hereditary, though not transferable. Their rent can be raised only by their own consent, or on legal proof that the value of their land has increased otherwise than by their own agency. The rear is brought up by the members of the third class, to whom the law gives no name, and whom we may call the pariahs. These have no rights whatever. The zemindar may eject them at will, and no provision has been made to give them the benefit of any local custom which may exist in their favor, or a claim to compensation for the improvements they may have effected on their farms." "It is sometimes asked," the writer remarks, "whether these three divisions of ryots were in existence before 1859, or were they the arbitrary creation of the Act? We think that the principle of the division itself, points to the answer. That principle was simply the lapse of time, just as in the law of limitation. A ryot who had been less than twelve years in possession of his holding, was put in the pariah class; he who had been for that period on the farm in the occupancy class, unless he had been settled there since 1799, at a uniform rate, when he was elevated to the rank of a peasant proprietor." The writer has not, we must observe, correctly represented the old law on the subject. With the help of the author of the pamphlet on the Great Rent Case we will endeavour to expound the terms and conditions of the Permanent Settlement. Referring to Regulation VIII. of 1793, we find that no rights to or in land were respected by Government at the time except such as were created by written contract, and that no right of occupancy was recognized, except such as was derived from a pottah.

Section 16 of that Regulation provides that

"Mocurreree leases to persons not the actual proprietors of the lands included in such leases, if granted or confirmed by the Supreme Government, or obtained previous to the Company's accession to the Dewanny, are to be continued in force during the lives of the lessees, subject to an abatement of the fixed jumma for the authorized sayer resumed or abolished; but on their death, the settlement is to be made with the actual proprietors of the soil, agreeable to this Regulation."

Section 18:

Mocurrereedars holding lands of which they are not the actual proprietors, and whose Mocurreree grants have been obtained since the Company's accession to the Dewanny, and never received the sanction of the Supreme Government, are to be dispossessed, and the settlement is to be made with the actual proprietors of the soil, under this Regulation. In cases, however, where such Mocurrereedars have been in possession of their Mocurrerees for a term exceeding (subject to the pleasure of the Honorable Court of Directors) twelve years they are to receive during their lives the difference between the jumma at which they held the lands, and that which may be now agreed to by the actual proprietors, added to the neat produce of the authorized sayer, resumed or abolished."

So that even Mocurreree leases granted or confirmed by the Supreme Government or obtained previous to the Company's accession to the Dewanny were to continue in force only during the lives of the lessees, whilst such Mocurrereedars as had obtained their grants since the Dewanny, which had not received the sanction of the Supreme Government, were to be dispossessed, and possession for 12 years, was so far respected, that the grantees were held entitled "to receive during their lives, subject to the pleasure of the Honorable Court of Directors, the difference between the jumma at which they held the land, and that which may be now agreed to by the actual proprietors." This at once shows how the right of occupancy or even of property, other than that of the actual proprietors, was respected at the time of the Permanent Settlement.

Section 19 of Regulation VIII. of 1793 rules that

"Istemrardars, however, who have not got possession of their lands to the exclusion, or without the consent of the actual proprietors, as the Mocurrereedars mentioned in Section 18, are supposed to have done, but hold them of the proprietors on pottah, or lease, are to be considered as a species of pottah talookdars, and the settlement is to be made with them as hereafter specified."

With respect to these Istemrardars further provision as promised is made in Section 49, which says,

"It is to be understood, however, that Istemrardars (Mocurrereedars) of the nature of those described in Section 18 who have held their land at a fixed rent for more than twelve years, are not liable to be assessed with any increase, either by the Officers of Government, or by the Zemindars, or other actual proprietor of land, should he engage for his own lands. With regard to such Istemrardars also, as have not held their lands at a fixed rent for so long a period, if the Zemindar or other actual proprietor of land has bound himself by the deed which he may have executed not to lay any increase upon them, he shall not be allowed to infringe the conditions of the deed for his own benefit, but must confine his demands to the rent he may have voluntarily agreed to receive."

By mistake the Istemrardars for whom provision is made in this Section are said to be those described in Section 18, whereas Istemrardars holding on pottahs from the proprietors are described in Section 19, while Section 18 described those who held independently of the Zemindar; and who are by that Section rendered liable to dispossession. Reading Sections 19 and 49 together we find that it was not the length of possession which was respected, but the contract which the proprietor had voluntarily entered into, and which consequently he must keep inviolate. In the same spirit and precisely on the same principle were both the Clauses of Section 60, Regulation VIII. of 1793 enacted.

Clause 1.—"All leases to under-farmers and ryots made previous to the conclusion of the settlement, and not contrary to any Regulation, are to remain in force until the period of their expiration, unless proved to have been obtained by collusion, or from persons not authorized to grant them."

Clause 2.—"No actual proprietor of land or farmer, or persons acting under their authority, shall cancel the Pottahs of the khood-khast ryots, except upon proof that they have been obtained by collusion; or that the rents paid by them within the last three years, have been reduced below the rate of the Nirikbundee of the Pergunnah; or that they have obtained collusive deductions, or upon a general measurement of the Pergunnah for the purpose of equalizing and correcting the assessment. The rule contained in this Clause is not to be considered applicable to Behar.

So that even in the case of khood-khast ryots, the rights of those only were to be respected, who held their lands on pottahs from the proprietors. Then come the dependent talookdars, who being as much proprietors of the land as the Zemindar himself, the latter is enjoined by Clause 1 Section 51 not to demand an increase from them.

With the exception of the above we are not aware that there was any limit imposed upon the proprietor's right of making any settlement for the lands in his estate which he might think would be most advantageous to himself, as emphatically declared in Section 52, Regulation VIII. of 1793,—

"The Zemindar or other actual proprietor of land, is to let the remaining lands of his Zemindaree or estate, under the prescribed restrictions, in whatever manner he may think proper; but every engagement contracted with under-farmers shall be specific as to the amount and conditions of it; and all sums received by any actual proprietor of land, or any farmer of land, of whatever description, over and above what is specified in the engagements of the persons paying the same, shall be considered as extorted, and be repaid with a penalty of double the amount."

The restrictions alluded to are:

Section 53.—"No person contracting with a Zemindar, independent talookdar, or other actual proprietor, or employed by him in the management of the collections, shall be authorized to take charge of the lands or collections, without an ameenamah, or written commission, signed by such Zemindar, independent talookdar, or other actual proprietor."

Section 54.—"The impositions upon the ryots, under the denomination of Abwab, Mahtoot, and other appellations, from their number and uncertainty, having become intricate to adjust, and a source of oppression to the ryots; all proprietors of land and dependent talookdars, shall revise the same, in concert with the ryots, and consolidate the whole with the assul, into one specific sum. In large Zemindaries, or estates, the proprietors are to commence this consolidation of the rents of their ryots, in the Pergunnahs where the impositions are most numerous, and to proceed in it gradually, till completed, but so, that it be effected for the whole of their lands, by the end of the Bengal year 1198, in the Bengal districts, and of the Fussily and Wallaitee year 1199, in the Behar and Orissa districts, those being the period fixed for the delivery of pottahs hereafter specified."

Section 55.—"No actual proprietor of land, or dependent talookdar, or farmer of land of whatever description, shall impose any new Abwab or Mahtoot upon the ryots, under any pretence whatever. Every exaction of this nature shall be punished by a penalty equal to three times the amount imposed, and if, at any future period, it be discovered, that new Abwab or Mahtoot have been imposed, the person imposing the same, shall be liable to this penalty, for the entire period of such impositions."

Section 56.—"It is expected, that in time, the proprietors of land depend nt talookdars, and farmers of land, and the ryots, will find it for their mutual advantage to enter into agreements in every instance for a specific sum, for a certain quantity of land, leaving it to the option of the latter to cultivate whatever species of produce may appear to them likely to yield the largest profit; where however, it is the established custom to vary the pottah for lands according to the articles produced thereon, and while the actual proprietors of land, dependent talookdars, or farmers of land, and ryots in such places, shall prefer an adherence to this custom. the engagements entered into between them are to specify the quantity of land, species of produce, rate of rent, and amount thereof, with the term of the lease, and a stipulation, that in the event of the species of produce being changed, a new engagement shall be executed for the remaining term of the first lease, or for a longer period, if agreed on; and in the event of any new species being cultivated, a new engagement, with the like specification and Clause is to be executed accordingly."

The restrictions provided in the above Sections, it is clear, were framed solely with a view to prevent the Zemindars from claiming or recovering from the ryots more than what should have been mutually agreed to, and to aid the courts of justice in determining the exact amount payable by the ryots under the contract, which had, in the language of the Regulation, "become intricate to adjust" by reason of the number and uncertainty of the cesses imposed upon them in addition to the asul jumma; and not, as is erroneously supposed, to dictate the rates of rent at which the Zemindars were to settle with their ryots and grant pottahs. That was left to be settled between the zemindar and ryot without let or hindrance, as was distinctly laid down in the two Clases of Section 57.

Clause 1.—"The rents to be paid by the ryots, by whatever rule or custom they may be regulated, shall be specially stated in the pottahs; which in every possible case, shall contain the exact sum to be paid by them."

Clause 2.—"In cases where the rate only can be specified, such as where the rents are adjusted upon a measurement of the lands after cultivation or on a survey of the crop, or where they are made payable in kind, the rate and terms of payment, and proportion of the crop to be delivered, with every condition, shall be clearly specified."

The above we hope will be found a faithful analysis of the terms and conditions of the Permanent Settlement, and we maintain that there is nothing in them which literally or constructively would favor the idea of a right of occupancy, whether of khood-khast or py-khast ryots, except what was derived from a pottah; or of any rate for the adjustment of rent other than what could be agreed upon between the zemindar and his tenant. But Act X of 1859 is now the law of the land, and the rights and previleges, which it has conferred upon ryots, cannot be and ought not to be taken away. The *Friend of India* under-estimates the beneficial effects of the occupancy clause; it forgets that that clause gave sub-proprietory rights to the whole body of ryots, who had squatted on the land for twelve years, and their tenure is not only hereditary but transferable according to custom in many districts. As for tenants-at-will no civilized country recognizes the right of the mere squatter to the position of proprietors liable to a quit rent. Such a measure would be simply confiscation.

The *Friend* has not touched upon the real issue in the rent dispute. It does not lie between the landlord and the tenant-at-will, but between him and the occupancy ryot. The whole question is a question of the rate of rent. The grounds on which the rate is to be regulated are vague and indefinite, and consequently open to dispute. Several suggestions have been made for the solution of the difficulty, but to our mind the proportion of three-fourths of the gross produce to the ryot and one-fourth to the zemindar would be fair and equitable to both. We are aware that in several districts the proportion is greater, but where such is the case we would not disturb the existing arrangements until there be such a rise in the value as to reduce the proportion due to the landlord below one-fourth. Originally the proportion paid by the ryot was one-half, which was also followed by Government in making settlement in the ceded provinces under Regulation XXVII of 1803. Clause 14, Section 53, of that Regulation runs as follows:

"Where neither the proprietors nor farmers may tender suitable conditions of agreement, a khas or bowlee settlement shall be made with the ryots; stipulating the shares they are to get from the different kinds of land as follows: In politch lands, or such as are in full cultivation, Government shall receive five pussarees and the ryots three pussarees. In chunchur lands, or such as have not been cultivated, for two or three years, Government shall receive two, and the ryot six pussarees. In bunjer, or waste lands, Government shall receive one, and the ryot seven pussarees. Chunchur lands after one, and bunjer lands after two years, shall be considered equal to the politch; and further, the bunjer lands after one year shall be taxed equal to chunchur. In the khas settlement, the bhaint or nuzzerana shall be abolished; the putwaree's wages shall be borne by the ryots; but the mussaut, or measuring and valuing the crops, shall be defrayed by Government, in consideration of the additional pussaree received out of the politch crop. In all cases where crops are valued, it shall be done according to the price current of the day. In the khas settlement, the ryots shall engage that the cultivation of the lands shall not fall off, and that they shall not undertake the cultivation of new lands, until they have accomplished that of the old."

It will be observed from the above that in 1803 the prevailing rate in the North West was 5-8ths the produce, with the additional charge upon the ryot, for the maintenance of putwarees. This was not the rate exacted by an unscrupulous, hard-hearted Bengal Zemindar, or by a rapacious Indigo planter, from a timid and unresisting tenantry, but by a humane and paternal Government, ever anxious to promote the welfare and contentment of those placed under its rule. Such a rate was tantamount to confiscation of the fruits of the labor of the ryot. No tenantry can make the two ends meet if one-half of the gross produce of the land is appropriated as revenue or rent. The proportion of three-fourths to the ryot and one-fourth to the zemindar would leave a sufficient margin for the tenant, while it will secure justice to the landlord.

THE EAST INDIA ASSOCIATION.

THE East India Association, in its last annual report complains that it has not received due support from the people of India. It says: "Although the East India Association has now, for nearly seven years, consecrated its best efforts to the promotion of the interests of the people of India, it has not received that degree of support from the classes most deeply concerned in its useful action which it had reason to expect, and to which it may honestly lay claim." The Association thus accounts for this apathy: "In all likelihood, this comparative indifferance to the exertions of the Association has arisen from an insufficient acquaintance with the great objects of its existence, upon the part of the opulent and intelligent inhabitants of the central, eastern, and southern parts of India. The inference is justified by the generous reception given in Western India to the distinguished delegate, Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji, the present Dewan of the Guicowar of Baroda. It can hardly be doubted that when a knowledge of what the Association has accomplished, and is capable of still further achieving under an enlargement of its power, is generally diffused, there will be manifested an ardent desire in the localities in question to contribute a liberal portion of assistance corresponding with what has been heartily accorded elsewhere." The Association is quite right in looking for sympathy and support from the people of India. It was originally designed and established by a well known Native gentleman, Mr. Dadabhoy Naoroji, and is chiefly conducted by a body of enlightened and disinterested English gentlemen formerly connected with India, or interested in Indian matters, with no personal interests or objects to serve, and actuated in their labors solely by philanthropy. But we are constrained to say that the Association has hitherto resembled more a debating club than an active deliberative body. This charge has not unfrequently been brought against the Association, and the Council of that body have accordingly entered into an explanation or vindication in their last annual report. The Association was launched into existence under the highest auspices. It had for its first President the late Lord Lyvedon, who was at one time the Queen's Indian Minister, and among its Vice-Presidents several M. Ps. Several native Princes also extended their patronage to it in the shape of munificient contributions. Many native gentlemen also joined the body. The leading principles and purposes of the Association were declared to be "the union of England with India." by the dissemination of knowledge regarding the latter country, the free discussion of her affairs, the establishment of a communication with Parliament, and the protection of Native Princes (and others who might come to England with personal objects in view) against the wiles of unscrupulous and incompetent agents. The Association disavowed the championship of exclusive cases. All who might appeal to it for assistance would find it a cordial and ready friend, with no special purposes of its own to serve. Let us see how far the Association has fulfilled its objects and functions. The activity of the Association in the discussion of Indian affairs by means of papers and reports has been very great. But here as is not inaptly remarked it resembles a debating club. We must admit that many valuable papers have been read at the Association since its establishment, but they have been more or less of a speculative character, and have seldom resulted in practical action. The papers read could have been published without the agency of the Association. Take for instance some of the papers noticed in the annual report. Sir Arthur Cotton has written volumes upon irrigation, and he could have published his further views on irrigation and water transit without going to the Association. The papers on Mysore by General Jacob, on "Material Improvement of India" by Mr. Login, on "Transport in India in reference to the interests of England and India" by Mr. Hyde Clarke, on the "finances of India" by Sir Charles Trevelyan, on the "relations between the Native States and the British Government" by Mr. Prichard, and "on delay of justice to Indian appellants in England" by Mr. Tayler, on "the deficiencies in the present administration of Hindu law" by Dr. Goldstucker, on the "Commerce of India" and "England's duties to India" by Mr. Dadabhoy Nowroji, and on other subjects could have been published independently of the Association. The subjects were mostly of a speculative character, and the discussions thereupon did not lead to any practical result. The Association has undoubtedly great intelligence and ability at its command, and if it exercised its legitimate influence in the representation of practical questions to Her Majesty's Government it could do much good. In a few instances it did exercise its influence, and proved successful. It addressed the Secretary of State on the subject of the admission of Natives of India into the Civil Service, and was chiefly instrumental in obtaining the Parliamentary Act for the appointment of Indians to the Civil Service at the discretion of the Indian Government. Then it petitioned the Queen's Government for the appointment of a Royal Commission of Enquiry into the financial administration of India, and although it did not succeed in its immediate prayer, the agitation made by it in common with other influences at work eventuated in the appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons on Indian Finance. But unfortunately the Association takes little interest in practical questions. Although most momentous laws have been passed in India since the establishment of the Association, most intricate questions of internal administration have been raised, and most important financial problems have been discussed, the Association has sedulously held its tongue. It has talked loud and long over matters of barren speculative character, but has taken no practical action whatever.

The Council of the Association thus conclude their report: "The wants, the wishes, the rights, and the interests of the vast population which looks to Great Britain for good government and protection, have claimed prominent consideration, and must ever be the foremost objects of an Association formed expressly to echo the sentiments of an otherwise unrepresented community. And let it be ever present to the minds of the Princes and People of India that the Association is not composed of persons who merely cherish goodwill towards their fellow-subjects abroad; it is an assemblage of many of the most enlightened noblemen, independent gentlemen, members of Parliament—who have acquired a competent knowledge of India, her claims and necessities, either from study or actual experience—Governors, Judges, Commissioners, Envoys, Military Commanders, Revenue and Judicial Officers, Journalists, residents for many years among the people, Merchants, and Native gentlemen of education and rare intelligence. Their names, which are published from time to time in the Journal of the Association, are a guarantee that they understand the work they have taken in hand, and are at all times ready and willing to perform it conscientiously."

We readily admit all this, and highly appreciate the capacity of the Association. But our regret

is the more that having at its command so much knowledge, intelligence, ability, and influence, it does so little to promote good. The East India Association ought to be a sort of imperial tribunal for the several local Associations of India; these Associations represent the local wants and grievances of the people, and when they fail here, they ought to find in the East India Association their mouth-piece in England. But the latter does nothing to promote such a combination. This is the weak point in the constitution of the East India Association, and unless it removes this defect it will remain only a talkee talkee body, and cannot expect much sympathy and support from India.

IRRIGATION AND RAILWAY.

WE have much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following despatch from the Secretary of State to the Governor General in Council on the Resolution of the Government of India regarding certain Irrigation and Railway projects in North Behar:

From—The Secretary of State for India,
To—The Government of India.

I have perused with much interest the Resolution of your Government copy of which accompanied Your Excellency's letter No 164 of 14th November last, on the subject of railway and irrigation works for the tracts north of the Ganges, recently afflicted by scarcity.

2 This document is of the more importance as exhibiting the views of your Government in regard to the proper mode of dealing with projects for railways and canals designed for the prevention or mitigation of famine, and I have much pleasure in signifying my cordial concurrence in the opinions expressed.

3. The immediate object, as Your Excellency points out is "not to bring waste lands into cultivation or to increase the wealth of the country by improving the present means of communication," but to guard as much as possible against a recurrence of such disasters, both to the people and the State, as resulted last year and previously in the year 1865-66 from failure of rain and consequent failure of the principal food-crop of extensive tracts of country. Although, too, irrigation works alone can prevent such evils, improved lines of communication afford the best means of alleviating them when they occur, as, in spite of the utmost precaution, they everywhere may, and therefore, however desirable it be that some at least of the more imminently threatened districts should be protected from drought by irrigation works, it is even more essential that all of them should, as you say, be "brought into nearer communication with the main arteries of trade."

4. With only limited funds at command, however, it is impossible for the Government to supply these desiderata except very gradually, and too much caution cannot be exercised in selecting the works to be undertaken, nor too much stress laid on the necessity of rigid economy in their construction. The principles which should govern the choice are clearly set forth in the Government Resolution, where I note with particular satisfaction what is said in favor of multiplying wells and tanks, and of utilizing nullahs, in preference to the too exclusive elaboration of grand schemes on the scale of those in Orissa and elsewhere, and also the intimation given to the officers charged with the preparation of a railway scheme, for connecting Muzaffurpoor and Durbungah with the Ganges, that they will be expected to be upon "their mettle to design the cheapest railway that has yet been made in India, both as regards construction and working."

5. The railway in question is apparently the only project of magnitude the early execution of which is distinctly contemplated by the Resolution. Before being undertaken, it will of course be submitted for the sanction of Her Majesty's Government. Surveys, however, have, I observe, been ordered, with a view to the construction in Sarun and Chumparun of inundation canals in connection with the recently authorized embankments of the Gunduck, and of minor irrigation works in Ramnugger and elsewhere, and I shall await with interest a report upon the results of these surveys."

Lord Northbrook had arrived at the conclusions, in which the Secretary of State cordially concurs, after great labor, enquiry, and deliberation. His Lordship was not satisfied with the reports made by the local officers, and instituted personal enquiries into the subject, and his resolution indicates that he had made himself thorough master of it. If his predecessors had taken such personal interest in works of public utility, before launching upon millions of expenditure, there would not have been so much waste of money. Lord Northbrook is however made of a different stuff; he always looks with his own eyes and thinks with his own mind, and here lies the secret of his success in enforcing economy. Perhaps no part of his Lordship's administration of India has been more successful than the conduct of the finances. By his labors in this department alone he has laid the people of India under a debt immense of endless gratitude.

THE NEW LOAN.

THE Government of India in the Financial Department has issued the following notification for the new loan:

NOTIFICATION.
ACCOUNTS.

No. 519.—*Simla, the 13th May* 1875.

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council has resolved to borrow two crores and fifty lakhs of rupees for the Public service in the manner following:—

2. Promissory Notes will be issued for the said amount bearing interest at the rate of four per centum per annum.

The form and conditions of these Notes will be those of the Notes of the Transfer Loan of 1st May 1865, of which loan they will form a part. No Note will be issued for less than five hundred rupees, or for any amount, not being a multiple of one hundred rupees. The Notes will be payable to order, and interest thereon will be paid half-yearly, on the 1st May and 1st November in each year.

3. Notice is hereby given that tenders will be received by the Comptroller General at Calcutta from this date to noon of Wednesday, the 16th June next, for the whole or part of the above-named sum of two crores and fifty lakhs of rupees.

4. Each tender must be addressed, in the form annexed to this Notification, to the Comptroller General, Treasury Buildings, Calcutta, and enclosed in a sealed cover superscribed "Tender for Loan."

5. Tenders will be opened at the Office of the Comptroller General in Calcutta at noon on Wednesday, the 16th June next.

6. The amounts of accepted tenders must be paid in five equal instalments, on the following dates—

One-fifth on the 1st July 1875.
One-fifth on the 2nd August 1875.
One-fifth on the 1st September 1875.
One-fifth on the 1st October 1875.
One-fifth on the 1st November 1875.

Payment of any instalment except the first will be accepted before the due date, but not before the 1st July next. Interest upon the amount of each instalment paid before the 1st November next will be paid in advance, from the date when such instalment is received to the 1st October next.

7. Payment may be made to the account of the Government in one of the Presidency Banks of Bengal, Madras, or Bombay, or into any Government treasury or treasuries in India that may be named in the tenders.

8. Each tender must be accompanied by a receipt from one of the Presidency Banks of Bengal, Madras, Bombay, or from an officer in charge of some Government treasury, or by a cheque on a Banker in Calcutta, Madras, or Bombay, or by Government Promissory Notes duly endorsed to the Comptroller General, for a sum of not less than one per centum on the amount for which tender is made. This deposit of one per cent. will be considered as in part payment of the last instalment: it will be forfeited if the allotment is not fully taken up. A cash deposit may, after allotment, be exchanged for a Government Promissory Note.

9. Scrip receipts for instalments paid will be given by the Presidency Bank of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, or by the officers in charge of the Government treasuries at which payment is made. These receipts will be exchanged for Promissory Notes as soon as possible.

10. The minimum rate at which tenders will be accepted will be recorded under the signature of the Comptroller General, and declared before any tender is opened. The rate stated in a tender must not contain a fraction of an anna. If a rate containing a fraction of an anna is inserted in any tender, such fraction will be struck out, and the tender treated as if the rate did not contain such fraction of an anna.

11. Tender at the declared minimum rate, and at rates above the declared minimum will be accepted in the order of the rates tendered beginning with the highest rates. The amount allotted at the lowest rate at which tenders are accepted will be divided amongst those who have tendered at this rate, in proportion, as nearly as may be found convenient, to the amounts of their tenders.

12. The names of the persons whose tenders are accepted in whole or in part will be posted for general information at the Presidency Banks of Bengal, Madras and Bombay.

By order of the Governor General in Council.

R. B. CHAPMAN,
Secretary to the Government of India.

FORM OF TENDER.

I hereby tender for rupees of the Loan advertised in the Notification published in the *Gazette of India* Extraordinary dated the 13th May 1875, and agree to pay for the same, subject to the conditions notified, at the rate of rupees annas* for every hundred rupees allotted to me.

I enclose a *deposit receipt* † for rupees ; and engage, if my offer be accepted to pay to the account of the Government at the Presidency Bank or ‡ [or into the Government treasury at‡ as the case may be] the first instalment on the 1st July next, and the several later instalments on or before the dates fixed by the Notification, as follows:—

One-fifth on the 1st July 875.
One-fifth on the 2nd August 1875.
One-fifth on the 1st September 1875
One-fifth on the 1st October 1875.
One-fifth on the 1st November 1875.

* Fraction of an anna not allowed.

† Or cheque or Government Promissory Note.

‡ Here enter the name of Bank or treasury.

Note.—A separate tender must be made at each rate tendered, and a separate deposit must accompany each tender. In order to avoid mistakes it is desirable that the tender or, at least, the name of the tenderer, and the amount and rate tendered, should be written in English.

In reviewing the last Budget in our issue of the 22nd March last we remarked: "The Budget statement we are of opinion wholly cuts the ground under the feet of Sir William Muir with regard to the proposed loan of 2½ millions. He has under-estimated the opium revenue; and trusting to the general elasticity of the Indian revenue, we may fairly expect an excess over the estimate. Then it is preposterous that the cash balance should be maintained at the high figure of 17 millions. Both Messrs. Wilson and Laing held that a solid cash balance of *10 millions* ought to be sufficient and safe. Excepting the last five years, the Finance Ministers had worked with a cash balance of 14 millions, and we see no reason to borrow money for the purpose of swelling the cash balance beyond 14 millions." We still stick to our opinion. On the other hand we should mention that it is argued that no one knows what a day may bring forth in India. There is the Burmese war in *rospectu*, and what other contingencies may arise no one knoweth. It is therefore deemed expedient to raise the loan. We fear the new loan cannot be had on the same favourable terms on which the last had been obtained. The money market is not now so easy as it was then; the Government stock was for sometime going down in the market until it was rallied by some purchases effected as it is believed by the Currency Department. Neverthless tenders are sure to be made at a premium. We wish some limit had been put to each tender so that the people of this country might have had a share of the loan. Judging by past experience we shall not be surprised if the whole loan were taken up by a few banks.

THE POLICE IN THE N. W. P.

SIR John Strachey has recorded a Resolution on the conduct of the Police in the North Western Provinces, the moral effect of which we hope will extend further than the local limits of the territories subject to his control. His action has been firm and excellent. The facts of the case, which we take from the Resolution, are as follows: Randhir Sing is a proclaimed outlaw. Since he escaped in 1871 from the jail at Allahabad, he has been the scourge of the Jhansi Division. He has committed outrage after outrage, and has defied every effort of the police to seize him. A reward of Rs. 3,000 was on his head. "His capture has been the unceasing object of the local officers, and the greatest stress has been laid upon it both by the local Government and by the Government of India." At midnight on Thursday, the 25th March, an informer brought news to Mr. Mills, Inspector of Police, Jhansi, that Randhir Singh and his brother Jangi, proclaimed outlaws, with five other men, had on the previous day taken refuge with him, and were then in a hut near the village of Baponi in Gwalior territory. The informer urged an instant effort to seize the outlaws, as on the following day they would probably decamp. Mr. Mills went at once to the Deputy Commissioner of Jhansi, Colonel J. Davidson, and obtained leave from him to start forthwith on the expedition; Colonel Davidson instructing him to take with him as many mounted police as were available, and a party of picked constables. Colonel Davidson added that as the dacoits were in the territory of His Highness the Maharaja of Gwalior, the co-operation of the Subah would be requisite; that he would early in the morning communicate with the Subah with the view of obtaining aid; and that Mr. Mills should surround the hut and prevent the escape of the dacoits, and, if possible, avoid attacking them till the arrival of aid from Pichore, said to be about 11 miles distant, and situated in Gwalior territory. Mr. Mills left Jhansi at 2 A. M. on the 26th, taking with him a head-constable and 12 constables, with eight mounted police. At 9 A. M. on the morning of 26th March he arrived, with the mounted police only, at the British post of Nagda, 23 miles from Jhansi, and an hour's march from the village where the outlaws were concealed. The foot constables had separated themselves from the first having chosen a different route. Mr. Mills ordered out the Nagda Police guard, nine men, under Sub-Inspector Jaggat Singh, and proceeded with them and with his mounted police, led by the informer, to the scene of action. Mr. Mills directed the informer so to lead his party as to enable them to surround the building beyond range of the outlaw's guns. Pursuing a circuitous route, they suddenly found themselves close to the place in which the outlaws lay, and which proved to be no hut, but a collection of houses, *viz.*, one long one-storied building, built of brick and loop-hole to the north-east and north-west immediately adjoining a tall two-storied building simi-

larly loop-holed above and below,; in the angle between the buildings a small court-yard enclosed by two walls about four feet high, with an entrance door in the centre, and two low out-houses out of repair close at hand. The whole were situate on the southern slope of a low long hill; to the south and sout-east of the house an open plain, almost perfectly bare; to the north and north-west lay the hill (on which the police were gathered) covered with thick brushwood, and extending nearly up to the house. Through this brushwood and over the brow of the hill, up to the house, the informer led the party. Mr, Mills finding himself within range of fire, and his instructions disregarded, ordered instant retreat over the hill-brow, despatched a chaukidar to the nearest Gwalior police-station, Paniari, for aid, posted constables along the ridge, and ordered the mounted police to watch the south and east sides of the houses. With the aid of the Jhansi constables and the Paniari Police, he hoped in the course of a few hours to be able to make an attack. Assistance too during the day might be expected through efforts of the Subah from Pichore or Jhansi. But the eagerness of Sub-Inspector Jaggat Singh and four of his constables precipitated matters and upset Mr. Mills' plans. Ordered to remain inactive on the ridge, Jaggat Singh and four constables, Nandan Khuda Baksh, Kalyan, and Subrat Khan, left their positions, and, approaching the houses, attempted to enter them. Jaggat Singh, while getting over the wall of one of the ruined out-houses, was fired at from an upper story and badly wounded. He staggered 20 yards back and fell. Two hours later he crawled out of the heat of the sun to the shelter of a tree near the two-storied house, from whence a shot despatched him. Of the other constables, Nandan was also killed from an upper story, Khuda Baksh, his companion, retiring after awhile unhurt, carrying off with him his comrade's musket. Kalyan at the same time approached the house from another direction with Sabrat Khan, and was shot dead, Sabrat Khan escaping unhurt. The musket, ammunition, and ornaments of Jaggat Singh and Kalyan fell into the hands of the outlaws. The Nagda party were thus reduced to seven, who remained with Mr. Mills inactive on the ridge awaiting reinforcements. Presently, at 2 P. M., the Jhansi constables arrived, tired from the long march, and further discomforted by the news which awaited them. The brushwood on the hill was about this time ignited: the wind blowing from the west carried the flames towards the houses: the thatched roof took fire, and the flames drove the outlaws of the houses to the shelter of a tree in the enclosure. No advantage was taken of this further than that Mr. Mills, after an ineffectual effort to advance to the buildings, concealed himself behind a mauhwa tree, 90 or 100 paces to the south of the house, and accompanied by a constable, Chotey Lal, who was subsequently slightly wounded, commenced exchanging desultory shots with the outlaws, and so remained till sunset. During the day armed villagers arrived in groups and offered aid: and in the evening the Thanadar of Paniari came up, unaccompanied by any police, stating that the chaukidar had merely told him that Mr. Mills had sent for him, but had made no mention of a force being needed. Mr. Mills then sent an express to Pichore and to the Deputy Commissioner, Jhansi. for aid, and as night was setting in, made arrangements for surrounding the house. At night a narrow escape from fresh casualties occurred, the guard firing into one another. It will be sufficient to add that in the darkness the outlaws walked away, carrying with them five members of the informer's famild (whom they subsequently released unhurt), and that when, with the dawn of day, the troops arrived from Pichore, the houses were found empty. Sir John Strachey records the following opinion on the conduct of the several Police officers concerned:

"Colonel Davidson, it is admitted, neither himself examined the informer as to the strength of the outlaw's party, the arms they carried, or the nature and position of the house, nor did he give any definite orders to Mr. Mills as to the force he was to take with him, advising him merely to surround the house and not to take any active steps till the arrival of troops from Pichore. Aware that owing to the frequent and rapid movements of the outlaws instant action was needful, he neither communicated with the Subah nor with the Commissioner of Jhansi till next morning. He must have known that shortly after break of day Mr. Mills would be on the spot, and that it was impossible to foretell the issue. When he did at length communicate with the Subah, there was nothing in the letter to indicate the need of urgent action. The result was—as might have been expected—that assistance arrived at a very late hour, and that while Colonel Davidson had instructed Mr. Mills to await aid, he neglected to procure him aid until it was ineffectual. Everything that an intelligent and energetic District Officer should have done, Colonel Davidson left undone. He allowed his subordinate to start without sufficient enquiry. He neglected to support him promptly, though he had allowed him to start on the understanding that he should be promptly supported; and while it appears that he knew Mr. Mills to be in indifferent health, it does not seem to have occurred to Colonel Davidson to strengthen him by sending with him one of the District Officers. His reply is to the effect that he wished Mr. Mills to have all credit of success: but in the absence of the most obvious precautions, it is difficult to see how success could have been counted on; and owing to the neglect of such precautions, Colonel Davidson must share with Mr. Mills the discredit of a shameful failure.

Mr. Mills excuses his unsuccess by the non-arrival of the expected aid, and by physical weakness caused by recurrent fever and the fatigue of a long march and exposure. The former no doubt greatly increased his difficulties, and the latter in a measure may account for his gross cowardice. The fact remains that when, owing to the courage of some of the police guard which accompanied him from Nagda, his first scheme failed, he neither attempted to support the men who had commenced the attack, nor at a later hour, on the arrival of the Jhansi Constables, did he get them, after a brief resting time, into hand, and arrange for an assault at the critical moment when the flames had driven the outlaws in the face of an overwhelming force into the open courtyard— seven men with 4 or 5 fire-arms, only, against 19 or 20 armed constables, besides mounted police)—nor by personal example did he at any one moment encourage or animate his men, or give them to suppose that if they would follow, he, their officer, would lead them. In a word, he showed neither discretion nor courage, nor any single quality which is necessary in a Police Officer. He urges that he has been long engaged in pursuit of these and other outlaws, and that through information given by him, the outlaw Parbat Singh was captured There is truth in this; but he has shown hitherto more anxiety to pursue than to confront outlaws.

In a case of this kind, where, owing to carelessness or imbecility, or cowardice, or all combined, there has been at an important juncture inexcusable failure on the part of the responsible District Officers, it is necessary that Sir Jhon Strachey, who at all times is most willing to concede to his District Officers the utmost discretion and the greatest latitude, but who expects and will exact from them in return good and approved service, should express very clearly and publicly his opinion, which is briefly this: That both officers utterly failed in their duty, Colonel Davidson from an almost criminal negligence, Mr. Mills from personal cowardice. Colonel Davidson has served for many years in the Jhansi Commission, and had earned for himself the character of an efficient public officer. This he has for the present forfeited, but the Lieutenant-Governor trusts that taught by the sad results of the experience he has at this late hour gained, Colonel Davidson will have learnt that at all times in his career, and especially in critical circumstances, unsleeping vigilance must be maintained by an officer in charge of an Indian District. This much said, in view of past service, His Honor will not further mark his sense of Colonel Davidson's neglect of duty. In regard to Mr. Mills, the Lieutenant-Governor so far accepts the plea of ill-health, that he does not dismiss him from the service, and recalls the order by which Mr. Mills is at present suspended from his office. But he has shown himself utterly unfit for any position of authority or of other than subordinate command; and His Honor directs that he remain, until he has retrieved his character, in the grade of Inspector, from which he had been recently for a time promoted."

This is as it should be. The failure of the Police is really scandalous, and Sir John Strachey is not a whit too severe. The impunity with which Randhir Sing is carrying on depredations is a scandal to our Government. It is strange that the man has been at large for nearly five years, and has been committing plunder and violence, and yet the Police have not been able to apprehend him. Such signal failure of the Police is almost unknown in the annals of English administration in India. Sir John Strachey's action is most commendable. We only hope that similar decision will be shewn when the Police abuse their powers. One example in a matter of this kind would have a most healthy effect. Suppose such vigorous action had been taken by the Bengal Government in the now notorious pseudo-murder case hatched up by the Howrah Police, would they not have received a much needed and most salutary check? The Police requires a close looking-after, and the Resolution of Sir John Strachey will we hope stimulate the heads of other local Governments to follow his example.

THE WORKING OF THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES' ACT.

FOR FIVE years the Contagious Diseases Act has been in operation in Calcutta and its Suburbs, and it has fairly settled down into smooth working. The number of women on the register at the close of last year was 6845, an enormous number compared with the number of the same class of women in large European towns. We believe in London their number does not exceed 8000 and in Paris 4500. But we do not know on what principle women are brought under registration in Calcutta. It is notorious that many of the native women live with one or two men as man and wife, and we do not know whether these have been brought on the register. The women are classified as follows:

Hindoos	5638
Mahomedans	1074
East Indians	53
English	9
Other Europeans	71
Total	6845

The following statement gives an abstract of the number of women liable to attend and found diseased:

Town Sec.	No. of Women liable to attend.	Found diseased.	Suburban Sec.	No. of Women liable to attend.	Found diseased.
A	235	57	A	104	11
B	690	151	B	105	22
C	283	64	C	56	13
D	234	52	D	45	6
E	740	207	E	289	62
F	578	186	F	159	30
G	263	88	G	36	19
H	563	191	H	11	16
I	415	68	I	231	92
J	401	194	J	37	8
K	276	60	K	41	18
L	"	"	L	22	6
M	438	176	M	236	111
N	224	61	N	50	22
O	55	12	O	18	6
Total...	5405			1140	
Grand Total				6845	

Notwithstanding the care and vigilance with which the Act is worked we are surprised to learn that the spread of disease has not been checked to the extent desired. According to Dr. Payne's report the number of venereal cases treated in the Civil Hospitals, rose from 6931 in 1873 to 7941 in 1874. But the Commissioner of Police remarks: "It is possible that increase in disease may be due in part to the large number of unregistered women, who, on being brought under the act at the close of the year, were found to be suffering from disease. But it does not seem clearly established what proportion of the cases treated were *imported*, and what proportion, *local*. It will be observed, that out of the increase of 1010 venereal cases exhibited in Dr. Payne's table VIII, 658 cases appear on the books of two Hospitals, the Mayo and Chitpore. The annexed Table C shews that this is not the part of the Town, from which the ratio of disease among women brought on the Register is unusually high. In the Town the neighbourhood of Bow Bazar and Fenwick Bazar, and in the Suburbs Watgunj contribute most largely to the number of Lock Hospital patients, and these are the neighbourhoods, to which soldiers and sailors most frequently resort." It is however noteworthy that there was a considerable decline in the number of cases of disease detected on examination. These amounted to 2,008 against 2,617 in the previous year. This result, the Lieutenant-Governor observes, may in part also be due to the laxity with which the rules appear to have been enforced during the earlier part of the year. The existence of disease would in itself be a strong incentive to remain away from examination. Its concealment, rendered possible by evading the examination, may also in part account for the increase in the civil hospitals of Calcutta of the number of cases of diseases of the class which the Act is intended to counteract. As a necessary consequence of the diseased number of persons found on examination to be diseased, the daily average of sick in hospital amounted to 216 only against 276 in the previous year. We are glad to observe that the effect on the health of the European troops in garrison of the preventive measures adopted in Calcutta and its neighbourhood continues to be satisfactory. With a mean strength of 956 men, there were but 13 admissions from the more severe form of disease, and 77 from the less serious form. The character of the cases, too, is said to have been mild. The ratio of admissions only 9·4 per cent., or a little less favorable than in the previous year, when it was 7·4 only. The total cost of the Lock Hospitals amounted

to Rs. 34,877 against Rs. 42,960 in the previous year. The share of this cost of Government was Rs. 23,251, to which must be added Rs. 18,320 on account of preventive establishment, the cost of which is entirely borne by the Government. There was, thus, a saving of Rs. 6,429 on the maximum sum sanctioned by Government on account of the charges involved in enforcing the provisions of the Act.

THE TAGORE WILL CASE.

UNDER this head appears an article in a recent number of the *Oriental* from the pen of Dr. Knighton. The writer thus begins:

"On the 30th August, 1868, a remarkable man died in Bengal. That man was the Honourable Prosunno Coomar Tagore, C. S.I. His munificent public donations, his extensive private charities, his patriotism, and his ability, rendered him eminent. His contributions to Hindu legal literature, and his extensive knowledge of Indian Law and procedure, procured for him the *sobriquet* of "the Lord Lyndhurst of Bengal."

Educated originally in the Hindu College, he was for nearly forty years a leading member of the Native society of Calcutta, as a successful lawyer, as an advocate of just political rights in Bengal, as a social reformer, and as a zealous promoter of education, he was a remarkable man.

He was one of the original projectors and one of the most active members of the Landholders' Society, as well as of the British Indian Association. he was also Clerk-Assistant to the late Legislative Council of Bengal, and subsequently a member of the Bengal Council; and there was scarcely a sound movement, either for the assertion of political rights or for the social advancement of the people, in which he did not take an active part.

He left behind him a very large property, partly ancestral and partly acquired; an only son, two widowed daughters, and six grandchildren. The property is said to yield more than £35,000 a year; the English papers made it £50,000 a year when the appeal was being heard in London.

His will was dated the 10th October, 1862. It was an elaborate document, drawn up in English—a language which he both wrote and spoke with elegance and precision—and one of the Judges of the High Court of Judicature in Calcutta was one of the witnesses. An acute lawyer himself, of immense experience in Hindu law, Baboo Prosunno Coomar Tagore doubtless felt assured that all the provisions of that will were in accordance with that law.

We will not trouble the reader with a repetition of the contents of the Will, with which he is already familiar. Dr. Knighton says: "In every notice of the case that appeared in the London papers, during the hearing of the appeal, it was particularly noted that Mr. Ganendro Mohun Tagore was a Christian—that the testator was a Hindu, who had left money for the worship of idols—and that it was because he was a Christian, the son had been disinherited. The motive of these paragraphs was apparent. The object was to raise a false issue, to enlist prejudice on the side of the son against the testator, and to blind people to the real merits of the question. Testator's being a Hindu, the faith in which he had been reared and educated, had nothing to do with the validity of the will. It was a matter of perfect indifference, as to the legal merits of the case, whether Mr. Ganendro Mohun Tagore was a Christian, a Jew, a Mahommedan, or a Mormon. His faith might have been as sincere as St. Pauls's, or as lax and eccentric as Brigham Young's, without adding to, or detracting from, the merit of his claim, in the smallest decree. The judges, of course, every one in England knew, were not to be influenced by these zealous little paragraphs in the morning papers, headed "The Succession to £50,000 a Year." and such like. But unfortunately, in India, bigotry and superstition are too rife, not to make people question amongst themselves whether the orthodox Brahman or the apostate Christian, as they regarded them, was likely to be impartially weighed by a Christian tribunal. It was a great pity that this religious aspect of the question was foisted into it by these injudicious paragraphs." The writer condemns the judgment for two reasons. He says:

"The two defects in the will on which their lordships found their modification of it are, first.—

The testator has, in his heritable gift, devised a plan of continued succession, which is not found in, and is unknown to, the law by which he and his property are and must be governed (the Hindu law).

And secondly.—

The gift in remainder to the son of the Rajah was a gift to a non-sentient being, there being no such son of the Rajah in existence, either adopted or by natural descent."

He remarks:

"Primogeniture and the exclusion of females constituted the scheme of descent laid down in the will, which their lordships state to be novel and inconsistent with Hindu law. Hindu law is a vast and recondite system, which few will profess thoroughly to understand, varying in different parts of the country. Those who have made the subject a study assure us that for ages exclusive male proprietorship with primogeniture was the universal unvarying rule of succession. Equality amongst sons was but a later innovation, which slowly, gradually, and partially supervened. In the Shastras particularly, this older and almost universal rule, that of male proprietorship, with primogeniture, is continually met with. Inalienability was notoriously a permanent incident and quality of Hindu family estates. Pious gifts of lands commenced with kings; the reservation or disability gradually ceased to apply to mere movables or personalty, and still later came to be confined to descended or ancestral land. The several texts and glosses, restrictive of much alienations as may distress the family, even in the looser or more liberal Bengal School, prove the influence of the original fundamental maxims and observances—the intrinsic, ineradicable spirit and policy of retention of family wealth, and this occurred *pari passu* with the growth of indulgences and relaxing innovations."

"The second great objection of their lordships to the will is that a bequest or gift to a non-sentient person is invalid. They say, 'a person capable of taking under a will must be such a person as could take a gift *inter vivos*, and therefore must either in fact, or in contemplation of law, be in existence at the death of the testator." If this be true, it becomes an impossibility for a Hindu, by contingent gift, to make certain provision for future children such as grandsons, or great grandsons. The idea and practice of family arrangements in the protective disposition of wealth, are at least as familiar to the Hindu mind as the English. Some fetters and restrictions as to the apportionment of property, there are, no doubt imposed by the Shastres, and on grounds intelligible to all; but a social bar, arbitrary and dogmatic, forbidding the care of the unborn in the disposition of property, will be alike novel, and forbidding to Bengal! contrary to the whole spirit of its testamentary law and harsh and startling in its effects.

It is as natural as likely, and as consistent with custom, for a wealthy Hindu Patriarch, knowing himself to be endowed by law with a right to settle or give away his wealth, either by present act or by his last will and testament, to make provision for his unborn descendants, as it is for the English to do so. Such a man might justly say, "Your new construction of the law altogether cripples my powers of disposition, and yet why in reason, in fairness, should I have less liberty in this matter than the English landholder?" If you tell him in reply that his own law restrains him, not the English Court of Justice, he will answer that it is not so—that the new interpretation of that law is alone in fault.

It is not our object to discuss the question over again. But there is one suggestion made in this article, which is worthy of consideration. Dr. Knighton says:

"And now the question presents itself as to whether it is possible to obtain any reconsideration of this judgment of their lordships. Plainly, a great wrong has been done. Is there no means of redress? The answer is that, constitutionally, Her Majesty's Order, founded upon the recommendation of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in their judgment, is final—an appeal once heard and determined by their lordships cannot be re-opened—the case is disposed of once for all, and consideration or review or judgment is absolutely precluded. As Mr. Montrion puts it"—A.'s estate is given to B. by Her Majesty's decree. The private injustice is an inevitable and incurable accident—part of the price of constitutional government—even a wholesome sacrifice to the paramount and inviolable principles which support and render such government possible."

But, as Mr. Montrion further argues, every rule has its exception. In this case the text upon which their lordships should have proceeded, and should have determined the original Sanskrit of the "sentient-being,' or 'sentient-person, passages, was not in judgment before them. The question, therefore, is, whether it is not possible in this particular case to have a rule of Court altered, which in ordinary cases, requires no alteration. The Sovereign's decree being proved to be based upon defective information, a misapprehension of a hitherto unexplained Sanskrit text, has resulted in a mere error, ought not some means to be devised by which this error may be amended?

"Mr. Cochrane, one of the most experienced barristers of the Calcutta Bar, has published a work of several hundred pages octavo, on the subject, in which he confidently asserts that no one writer on Hindu law, nor any one case amongst the numerous decisions which have been passed, has ever supported the decision arrived at by their lordships relative to gifts to unborn sons. Mr. Cochrane has spent a lifetime in the practice of his profession in Calcutta, and his experience both of English and Hindu law, has been of the most varied and extensive character.

Under all these circumstances I think we are justified in arriving at the conclusion that a great wrong has been unwittingly done by the erroneous interpretation of an obscure Sanskrit text. Surely, it would be possible to have this wrong rectified by a Royal Warrant under the Sign-Manual, giving final effect to the judgment of the Court of First Instance, and quashing all the subsequent proceedings.

Now this question is of national importance. The Privy Council decision in the Tagore case has given a rude shock to the cherished usages and traditions of the Hindu population of Bengal in devising away property. There is scarcely a Hindu family in these provinces which does not transmit property in some form or other to an unborn person, and if the people at large had been as litigious as they are generally supposed to be, the courts of the country would have been flooded with suits. But the vast majority of them have scarcely heard of the decision of the Privy Council, and they are going on as usual in the disposition of their property. The ruling of the Privy Council is, however, based on incorrect information and conclusions, and in the interest of the nation we submit it ought to be revised and rectified.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE ARE glad to learn that Pundit Mahes Chunder Nayratna, Professor, Sanscrit College, has subscribed Rs. 1,000 in aid of Dr. Sircar's Science Association, equal to one year's fee he receives as an examiner in the Calcutta University. It is a sign of the times that even Pundits are coming forward in furtherance of the project.

WE BELIEVE the question of the withdrawal of State connection with the Presidency Banks is before the Secretary of State. We hear that there is no likelihood of the old State Treasury being revived.

THE NEWS from Baroda is still of an exciting character. It is reported that fresh riots have occurred but have been promptly put down. Considerable agitation is going on about the adoption of an heir to the throne. The Khandeish princes are said to come from an illegitimate branch and not therefore eligible to adoption. Preparations are being made for an appea to England in the Gaekwar's case. Rumours are current about the existence of differences between Sir Richard Meade and Sir Madhava Rao. It is said that the fouzdari and the military departments not being placed in the hands of Sir Madhava he feels himself greatly hampered in his actions. All these statements, as indeed all rumours about and from Baroda, should be taken *cum grano salis.*

WHEN THE Famine Grain Loan Bill was passed by the Bengal Council both Mr. Dampier and Sir Richard Temple assured the Council that the payment of the advances would be taken in convenient instalments, but we are sorry to hear that in the district of Dinagepore, the payment has been enforced in one instalment. We are told that the last Bhadoi crop in Dinagepore having been unusually abundant, some of the ryots had themselves waited with money upon the Collector for the liquidation of their debts, and this led the Commissioner to order that the whole of the advances should be recovered in one instalment. This sweeping order we hear has led many ryots to sell their cattle and agricultural implements in order to meet the demand of Government. We are glad to learn that this course has not been followed in other districts. There the advances will be recovered generally in two years.

MR. HOGG'S circular about the erection of new huts it seems is producing mischief. At first the Municipal underlings construed it to apply to both old and new huts, and the poor tenants were put to great inconvenience and hardship, but as soon as this came to Mr. Hogg's knowledge he promptly issued instructions stating that the law did not apply to old huts. We now hear that there is so much delay in obtaining sanction to the erection of new huts that the poor applicants do not know what to do, particularly as the rains are about to set in. An applicant complains to us that he submitted his application in due course, the overseer came after a week to inspect the site, and told him that he would get the order in a week more. Thus a fortnight's time is lost before a man can set up his hut. We hope Mr. Hogg will remedy this unwarrantable delay.

THERE ARE we believe twenty-three Dukes in the United Kingdom, one of whom has condescended to come out as Governor of Madras The Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, says. Reuter, has accepted the Governor-ship of Madras. According to *Debrett* quoted by the *Englishman* he was born on the 10th September 1823, and is consequently nearly 55 years of age. He succeeded his father in 1861; was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford; was M.P. for Buckingham, 1846-57; was a Lord of the Treasury and Keeper of the Privy Seal to the Prince of Wales, 1852; was Chairman of the London and North-Western Railway, 1853-62; was appointed Lord President of the Council, 1866; Lieutenant-Colonel, 2nd or Royal Bucks Yeomanry, and Hon. Colonel, 1st Administrative Battalion, Middlesex Artillery Volunteers, since 1862; is a Duputy Leutenant of Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire; married, in 1851 Caroline, only daughter of Robert Harvey, Esq., of Langley-park, Buckinghamshire, and has issue, living, three daughters. The Duke has no son. The dukedom was created in 1822. It is said that His Grace is coming out with the reversion of the Governor Generalship in his pocket, that is if the Conservative continue in power to the

time when Lord Northbrook's term of office will expire.

THE LAST *Calcutta Gazette* contains returns of the Road Cess receipts from 1873-74. The total demand upon lands and mines amounted to Rs. 6,37,812, of which Rs. 5,53,237 have been collected. The cess on houses under Part IV of the Act yielded Rs. 34,173, out of a demand of Rs. 53,301. The scarcity, which prevailed last year, affected the collections. The percentage of collections, says the Board, has varied considerably in the different districts. In Orissa which, so far from suffering from the famine, was thereby benefited by the opening out of a favourable market for its export produce, the percentage was as high as 100 in Pooree, and was 95·73 in Cuttack, but only 85·01 in Balasore. In the Dacca division the percentage ranged from 97·11 in Fureedpore to 91·32 in Dacca. In the Rajshahye division, although it was determined after considerable hesitation not to enforce the collection on account of the pressure of scarcity in the food-supply, difficulty was from that cause to some extent experienced in the collection, and the percentage fell as low as 87·32 in Moorshedabad, and even 73·55 in Rajshahye. "It must "be borne in mind," the Commissioner observes, "that zemindars have in very many instances not collected their rents from their ryots, and could hardly be expected with any degree of readiness to pay their road cess." The Commissioners express themselves generally well satisfied with the means afforded by the law for the recovery of the arrears and system of collection and of accounts. The Commissioner of Burdwan observes that "though the system of collection has not had a fair trial owing to the occurrence of the famine during the very first year of its operation, yet the results arrived at are marvellously good. The collections were made more easily and rapidly than could be expected, and the system may be said to have worked very satisfactorily, especially as regards the revenue-paying estates, and I have nothing to suggest with a view to its improvement. In ordinary years the cess, it is expected, will be paid with the utmost regularity."

WE HAVE much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following letter:

DEAR SIR,—I am very glad to learn for the first time from your issue of the 6th instant that the students of Mr. Sutcliffe have set on foot a movement for marking their gratitude to him with a suitable testimonial. The movement in question seems to be confined to the present students of the College. I think it is due to the ex-students of the College, who are living in the mofussil that they should be allowed an opportunity of participating in the movement. There are many a mofussil-wallah who would most cheerfully contribute towards the formation of the fund required for the testimonial. I do not wish to expatiate here on the high and rare qualities of Mr. Sutcliffe. The kind interest he takes in the welfare of his pupils bind them to him by ties of the deepest gratitude and respect; and the success that has happily attended his efforts in the interest of higher education in Bengal should make him dear to every one who has any degree of patriotic feelings in him.

I would ask the originators of the movement to circulate subscription lists among the many ex-students of the Presidency College who are working in various paths of life in different parts of Bengal; and I have no doubt the call will be very zealously responded to. My object in making this recommendation is that the funds may be large enough to make the testimonial assume a suitable and permanent shape. I believe you would help the project materially by throwing your columns open for advertisement of subscriptions. This course would not only save time but ensure the list embracing the names of all who might wish to co-operate in the fulfilment of this agreeable duty.

Yours truly,
CHUNDER NARAIN SINGH.

Our correspondent has misunderstood us. The movement is not confined to the present students of the Presidency College. All pupils of Mr. Sutcliffe, whether belonging to the late Hindu College or to its successor the Presidency College are invited to subscribe. We shall be happy to receive names of subscribers, and Babu Troylokhonath Banerjea, Librarian of the College, who acts as Secretary to the Fund, will receive subscriptions.

THERE WAS LATELY a serious collision on the East Indian Railway at Bilhaurty. A correspondent of the *Indian Statesman* thus accounts for it:

"The collision took place at the Bilhaurty coal siding and not at the Bilhaurty station. The collision would not have taken place had the station been removed, as long proposed, to the coal siding. Now that the Bhadressur station is being built, it will, I think, be for the interest of the Railway Company to remove the station to the coal siding which has a curve which might cause such collision. The merchants and shopkeepers and the zemindars of Bhadrisur have long applied for the removal; the former stating that if the station be at their door, they will bring their things from Calcutta and other places by railway and not by boat as they now do. Moreover, there is already a large establishment at the coal siding costing Rs. 150 or more, which might be, I think, done away with, so that the removal of the station to the coal siding would be an advantage to the public and a gain to the Railway Company."

As an important general question has been raised in connection with this accident, viz., whether the employment of natives as Railway Guards is consistent with public safety, we hope the official report upon it will be soon published, which will shew how far the native guard was to blame in the matter.

WE HAVE much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following address presented to Sir Madhava Rao by the officers and subjects of His Highness the Maharaja Holkar, and his reply thereto:

Address.

TO SIR T. MADAVA ROW, K.C.S.I., Minister to His Highness Maharaja Holkar, and Prime Minister Elect of the Baroda State.

SIR,—We the undersigned members of His Highness Maharaja Holkar's service and His Highness' subjects beg to express our heartfelt congratulations upon your elevation to the post of Prime Minister at Baroda: but at the same time we cannot conceal from you our deep regret at the severance of your connection with the Indore State.

Your reputation at Travancore was, no doubt sufficient to bring you to the prominent notice of all princes and politicians; yet no one will deny that His Highness the Maharaja Holkar showed uncommon discretion and strength of judgment in spontaneously inviting you to assist him in his administrative reforms from such a great distance as Madras; and your administration during the last two and a half years has given ample proof of the excellence of His Highness' selection.

Your amiable and kind disposition and the uniform courtesy which you always showed to all with whom you came in contact have endeared you to every one of us.

As might naturally be expected in official routine you had often times to deal with conflicting interests and inveterate prejudices; yet in all such cases the singular tact with which you deal with them never failed to extract admiration and applause from persons of even the most opposite views.

Your liberality of sentiment and conciliatory manners always pointed out as the person best fitted to administer a Native State; and it is just due to you to say that under your leadership the members of His Highness' service always took an active interest in promoting your policy of useful reforms and exerted their best to ensure the success of your measures.

The complete organization of the several departments of State under your auspices and the consequent division of work have facilitated the timely and regular disposal of business and introduced in all branches of the Government service greater usefulness and efficiency.

Every department of Government, Public health, justice, public works, Police, education and revenue, all have felt the influence of your master mind, and without going to details we might well say to those who may be sceptical on that point as was said of Pitt.—

Si monumentum quæris circumpice.

In conclusion, we beg to say, in the noble words which that distinguished statesman, Lord Elphinstone, had most appropriately addressed to yourself on a former occasion that we trust you will live long to achieve great successes and to encounter great events upon the country you are called upon to administer; and with an earnest hope that the high reputation which you have already gained will be still further increased."—We beg to remain, &c.

Reply.

FRIENDS AND GENTLEMEN.—As I stand before you, the object of your special regard and kindness this day, I consider myself peculiarly fortunate; for, the public approbation of public services is the most grateful reward that a public man can receive. When I was in Travancore, the field of my long and I hope, not barren labours, the possibility of my taking office in this part of India had never presented itself to my wildest speculations. I had identified the close of my career in that remote Principality with the culmination of my usefulness and distinction. But His Gracious Highness the Maharaja Holkar willed it otherwise. Even as I was bidding farewell to the good sovereign and people of Travancore, I was brought under the magnetic influence of Indore. Arrived at Madras, the attraction grew stronger,—it soon became irresistible! (Hear, hear). The consequence was that I became the chief Minister of a Sovereign of my own nationality. (Cheers). Here have I been these two years and a half, a period of life which I will always look back upon with sincere pleasure. I have enjoyed the affection of protection of a discerning Ruler; I have been associated with enlightened and sympathising countrymen; and I have been enabled to render services which you have this day stamped with your approval. (Cheers). It is not for me to sift your testimony and to suggest that you have been over-liberal in your appreciation of my humble endeavours to do my duty to the Sovereign and to the community. I gratefully appropriate what you so generously proffer. My warmest acknowledgements are due to you for your kind congratulations on the occasion of the invitation I have been honoured with, to take part in the improvement of another important Mahratta State. It is an invitation emanating from the Government of India, and kindly accorded to by our gracious sovereign. It would be affectation to-day that I feel highly elated at this proof of confidence and consideration. But on such occasions the sweet pleasure is largely qualified by a sense of responsibility with its concomitant anxiety. I can only hope that, with the support of the high authorities who will mainly guide the destinies of Baroda, I may be enabled, in some measure, to fulfil expectations. It cannot fail to be a source of encouragement to me that I start with your best wishes for my success. Allow me, in my turn, to wish you all success and prosperity here—success and prosperity which you eminently deserve. All the necessary conditions of intelligence, patriotism, power, wealth and humanity are to be found here in abundance. These will, I hope, under Divine blessing, bear the richest fruits. In conclusion I feel bound to acknowledge, in the warmest terms, possible, the great accession of strength I derived during my tenure of office among you, from the hearty and unfailing co-operation of brother-officers, from the concurrent efforts of the subordinate services in aid of progress and from the general sympathy of the public of all classes, as well as from the large measure of support given by our sovereign himself, a support without which, as you are all aware, we should not have been able to move an inch in our career. (Applause). I assure you I fully reciprocate the regret you so kindly express at my approaching separation from you. But no great distance will divide us as measured by the speed of railway locomotion. I hope we shall constantly hear of each other's welfare, and vie with each other in moral and material progress. (Loud applause).

REVIEWS.

Report on the effects of artificial respiration, intravenous injection of Ammonia, and Administration of various drugs, &c., in Indian and Australian snake-poisoning; and the Physiological, Chemical and Microscopical nature of snake-poisons. By the Commission appointed to investigate the subject. Calcutta.

This is a valuable report. Although no antidote for snake-bite has yet been discovered, the efforts made by the Government of India to encourage experiments in that direction are deserving of all praise. The Commission lately appointed by Government undertook the subjoined series of experiments in order to determine, as far as possible, whether any of the means employed possessed any antidotal power over animals poisoned by varying quantities of the cobra virus:—

Bite.

ANTIDOTE.	Weight of dog.	From bite or injection to death.	AVERAGES. Weight.	AVERAGES. Time.	REMARKS.
		Hrs. Ms.		Hrs. Ms.	
Brandy and opium	.....	11 27			Cobra week. Exclusive of No. 1 average is 26 minutes.
Opium	.....	0 25	.....	2 38	
Brandy and opium	.....	0 25			
Epsom salts	.....	0 9			
Strychnine	.....	0 45			
		3 grains.			
Strychnine	21 lbs	1 4	21 lbs	1 4	
Opium	.....	2 0	.....	.....	
Baptisia	.....	0 55	.....	1 33	
Irdin	.....	1 44	.....	.....	
		¼ a grain.			
Morphia	.....	1 50	.....	.....	
Liquor Arsenicalis	35 lbs	2 11	.....	.....	
Lupandrin	2 ¾ „	0 55	.....	.....	
Nicotin	30 „	1 55	.....	.....	
Cannabis Indica	29 „	12 55	.....	.....	
Bichloride of mercury	13 „	1 45	31 lbs	1 39	
Acid, Sulphuric	19 „	1 41	.....	.....	
„ Nitric	34 „	2 30	.....	.....	
„ Nitric	24 „	2 50	.....	.....	
„ Acetic	22 „	1 40	.....	.....	
„ Phosphoric	44 „	2 13	.....	.....	
„ Acetic	22 „	0 42	.....	.....	
		½ of a grain			
Strychnine	32 „	0 43	.....	.....	
Ditto	25 „	1 7	.....	.....	
Ditto	19 „	1 5	.....	.....	
Ditto	15 „	1 50	20½ lbs	1 31	
Bichlorid of mercury	15 „	1 45	.....	.....	Andamanese cobra, Sustained by artificial respiration, Exceptingexcept 30.
Acid, Hydrochloric	.....	2 38	.....	.....	
„ Phosphoric	18 „	1 34	.....	.....	
Chloral hydrate	25 „	6-16 of a grain. 3 35	25 lbs	3 35	
Bichloride of mercury	21 „	1·5 of a grain. 27 50	21 lbs	17 50	

The Commissioners are of opinion that an attentive analysis of these experiments shows that none of the drugs employed possessed the power of extending or preserving life. They thus sum up their investigations regarding ammonia:

1 The result of our experiments on dogs goes to show that the intravenous injection of ammonia possesses no antidotal or remedial power.

2 That the intravenous injection of ammonia, probably by promoting the absorption of the poison, rather expedites than retards the tendency to death.

3 That the Indian cobra is from six to thirteen times more poisonous than the snakes of Australia.

4 That a given quantity of the cobra-poison is more powerful and more rapidly mortal than the same quantity of Australian snake-poison.

5 That a large proportion of the bites of the two kinds of Australian snakes with which we experimented were, under the circumstances, altogether ineffective.

6 That the facts alluded to in 3, 4, and 5, are sufficient to account for the unmerited recognition of the intravenous use of ammonia as an antidote or a mode of treatment, in poisoning from Australian snakes.

It comes to this that the Commissioners have arrived at a conclusion in which nothing is concluded.

Vigyan Rahasya or Essays in Bengali on scientific subjects popularly treated by Bunkim Chunder Chatterji. Katalpara.

These essays originally appeared in the *Bungadarsana*. The subjects are as follows: Great Solar

Eruption, Multitude of Stars, Dust (from Tyndall), Aerostation, The Universe in Motion, Protoplasm, Antiquity of Man, Curiosities of Quantity and Measure, Sir W. Thomson on Seed-bearing Meteors. Our author's object has been to familiarize some of the phenomena of nature to the mere Bengali student, and we are glad to be able to say that he has been successful in his attempt. He has a knack of putting grave subjects in a gay attire, and this power of his is conspicuous in the pages of the little book before us.

Sukshma Dnyan; a Hindu Tract. By Hurrychund Chintamon, Author of "a commentary on the text of the Bhagavad-gita."

This small tract contains three short papers in which metaphysical and spiritual questions are discussed by comparison with common objects. We give bodily the last paper in this tract:

THE HUBBLE BUBBLE.

Pipe is the body, passions the Indian weed;
Mind is the bowl, plug reason, knowledge fire;
Its mouthpiece joy, smoke folly; and life's need
The bubbling noise, self-knowledge, man's desire.

THE Hubble Bubble, an onomatopoetic word, is, perhaps, not yet well known in England. It is an Eastern pipe, differing from the English by the addition of a receptacle—usually a cocoanut-shell, or, perhaps, coloured glass—in which pure water is deposited, and through which the smoke passes before it is inhaled. In the similitude the stem of the pipe represents the human body; passions are the tobacco, other weed which is smoked in the pipe; mind is the bowl which contains these passions; understanding is the plug which prevents the tobacco passing into and blocking up the stem—in other words, which prevents the passions injuring the body; and knowledge is the fire which separates passion—the pure from the impure, the good from the evil. The evil is reduced to ashes, or vanishes as vapour into air, while through the purifying water of reflection, through the mouthpiece of mental satisfaction, man draws the desirable aroma of content, and hears the bubbling noise which in the similitude represents the still small voice of reason—the unerring guide to happiness and repose. This pipe is usually smoked every day. It is not reserved for one day in the week, which most religions allot in their gratitude to him from whom they say they have received all. The pipe is smoked every day, as true religion should be practised and not set apart as a thing remotely interesting us for one day, and then for a week after wholly forgotten. Religion should not be, in the words of Milton, a dividual movable, we should not air it for fashion sake and for a season in church, and then go and transact our business without it. It should be, to be worth anything, an integral and not a fractional part of ourselves. Just as in the former similitudes, the Chariot and the Churn represented the body, so here it is represented by the pipe's stem—the perforated reed. Tobacco is here what was in those similes horses or milk. Fire is here what was there the whip or the churning-stick. Nearly all which was said there may, with little change, be repeated here. Fear, care grief, discontent, pain, remorse, and sloth, are all to be dispelled as the smoke of folly.

Charaka Sanhita, Parts 1 and 2. Translated by Bamacharan Barat.

Hindu medical works are going out of fashion for want of competent scholars. It is true that there has been of late some reaction in favor of Hindu medicine since the progress made in Bengal in the homœopathic mode of treatment of diseases. Our countrymen now see considerable resemblance between certain homœopathic and Hindu drugs and medicines, and as in these days whatever has the sanction of European or American authority commands their respect they now begin to think that there must be something good in their ancient system of medicine. This is just the time for our medical scholars to bring into light the valuable treasures, which lie buried in the not easily accessible ores of Sanscrit. We therefore hail with pleasure the laudable attempt of Babu Bamachurn Barat to translate into Bengali the well known medical work, the *Charaka Sanhita*. He is eminently qualified for the task he has undertaken, and we wish him every success. We hope he will receive the kind and liberal patronage of the discerning public.

LONDON CORRESPONDENCE.

London, 2nd April 1875.

Day before yesterday, it was announced in the evening papers, that the Commission appointed to try the Guickwar of Baroda, was "understood to have been unable to agree in their verdict." This announcement, it need scarcely be added, has created some sensation here. With some of the English papers, the conviction of the Guickwar, was a matter of foregone conclusion. It would, perhaps be uncharitable to suppose that malignity or any desire to see the Guickwar's territories annexed to the English possessions, had betrayed them to this conclusion. The Viceroy and Governor General of India, himself a statesman of acknowledged prudence and foresight and acting under the advice of a staff of experienced Councillors, supposed to be well-versed in law and the usages of the people, had decided, not upon mere vogue suspicion, but upon evidence taken by a High Civil officer, to put the Guickwar upon his trial for an attempt to poison the British Resident. It was therefore only natural to suppose that when the Guickwar was deposed, and subjected to the indignity of a criminal prosecution, his conviction would follow as a matter of course. The disagreement among the Commissioners has, therefore, been rather disappointing. But those who suffer from this feeling, are not always very logical, nor are they always in the best of tempers: and a disappointed suitor or even a disappointed spectator whose feelings have been enlisted in the case is not only apt to be unreasonable and inconsistent, but is often only too ready to break out in uncourteous and undignified strictures regarding the conduct of the Judges concerned. The *Daily Telegraph*, in a leading article on the Guickwar's case, after sagely premising that "without full particulars of the trial before us, it would be premature of course to give any positive opinion," adds with strange inconsistency in the very next sentence that "unless something very material indeed was adduced by the defence of which the telegraph has told us nothing, what we possess of the proceedings makes it difficult to understand upon what logical grounds, the Jurors Native or English could have held the Guickwar's guilt doubtful."

But the above is only illogical and contradictory. It only shows that the writer's mental balance has been disturbed and he does not see that he is involving himself in contradictions. What follows is unfair and uncourteous to the Indian Princes who consented to serve on the commission. The writer says: "It would be at once easy and invidious to name plenty of grounds other than logical or loyal ones, upon which the kindred Princes on the Bench might have gladly taken refuge in doubt.

The Maharajas of Gwalior and Jeypore and the Raja Sir Dinkar Rao undertook a very invidious duty in consenting to take part in the Commission. If they were men of sense, (and that they were so, may be inferred from their being appointed Commissioners, they could not but bear in mind that in trying the Guickwar" the Indian Government had placed itself on its own trial, that in fact they were sitting in judgment upon the proceedings of that power to which they were subordinate, whose favour was a matter of importance to them, and whose disfavour was at all events to be avoided. If notwithstanding these obvious considerations, they found the Guickwar "not guilty" as they are reported to have done, and had thus condemned the proceedings of the Indian Government, their independence cannot be too highly admired. They certainly do not deserve to have unworthy motives imputed to them.

The tone of the *Times* is far more judicious and temperate. After speaking of Sir Dinkar Rao in terms of the highest praise, as "a quiet, sedate, undemonstrative man with an eye of unusual brightness and a lip which seems to indicate at once truth and firmness," the *Times* remarks that "the evidence is in the main about as worthless as evidence could be even in India." But the more important question and one which probably will have been decided, before this reaches you, is "what is to be done with the Guickwar." We have already had the assurance that his territories would not be annexed. But in the midst of this conflict of opinion regarding his guilt, is he to be restored to his throne or is he to be kept in *surveillance* (call it honourable if you like) after the fashion of the King of Oude? The answer which the *Times* gives, is at once decisive and satisfactory. "Perhaps," says that journal, "the most just as well as the most prudent course would be to convince ourselves that an error has been committed, and to escape from it by a frank admission that as the charge has not been proven, the Guickwar of Baroda, is entitled to the full benefit of the doubt. It would be neither wise nor dignified after giving the Prince an open trial to deny him the advantage he has secured."

It remains to be seen how far the authorities in India, will act upon this suggestion. But, in the meantime, the trial has not been without its lessons. Not after has the Indian Government been known to exhibit such a want of prudence, sagacity and foresight, as have been unhappily displayed in this case. Here we have an officer once severely censured for official misconduct, placed in a position of trying difficulty as head of the Baroda Residency. That the affairs of Baroda were not in a flourishing condition, could scarcely have been unknown to the Indian Government, yet this officer was appointed Resident. The choice was a bad one, and there was scarcely any excuse for it. But the wonder is that it was not seen till nearly two years after the appointment. Well Colonel Phayre represents that an attempt had been made to poison him. The Bombay Government takes up the cry and sends down an officer to inquire, an officer who again is rather unfavourably known in connexion with the late Bombay riots. A man with a strong belief and with some plausible facts and arguments to back him, has no difficulty in impressing an inquirer who has no beliefs on the subject—Mr. Souter goes back, fully impressed with the truth of Colonel Phayre's case. He is summoned to the seat of Government. The Governor General is persuaded that a foul attempt had been made by the Guickwar to poison the British Resident. So strongly assured is His Excellency of the truth of this attempt; that he decided to have the point settled by the verdict of an independent tribunal. That tribunal after a protracted inquiry has not been able to arrive at a verdict. The matter was not therefore capable of being so easily disposed of as the officials thought it to be.

Probably this *contretemps* will serve to teach the Government that the official mind is not always capable of judging the truth and that when personal matters get mixed up with public questions, it may not always be safe to rely upon official judgement.

If Mr. Souter and Colonel Phayre were the servants of a private company instead of being the officers of an Imperial Government and if in some important matters they had not been able to give satisfaction, probably the Company would have been slow to act upon their representations In any question of importance. But the ways of government are not always those of private people, as "though state agency" to use the words of Herbert Spencer, (Sociology page 160) "were something more than a cluster of men (a few clever, many ordinary and some decidedly stupid.")

Correspondence.

DISPENSARIES AS LIQUOR SHOPS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HINDOO PATRIOT.

DEAR SIR,—Knowing that you cannot give space for a long correspondence, I beg to embody in this simply a few suggestions for the effective suppression of the most illicit practice of selling spirituous and fermented liquors for other than medical purposes, as practised in some of the Dispensaries.

It is true, that the two new sections embodied in the draft of the Bill to amend the Abkaree Laws with regard to the Chemists, Druggists and Apothecaries, are very good in their way, but I am afraid, they will not be sufficient to meet the end that they have in view. The various artifices and under-hand dealings of the proprietors of some dispensaries, together with the most pernicious practice of bribery would likely baffle the provisions of the sections alluded to, with a view to suppress the evil more effectively, I would humbly propose few suggestions, which being matured by the authorities may prove effectual in putting a stop to the most iniquitous practice, so dangerously felt by all.

That one or two duly qualified and respectable officers selected from the medical practitioners, be entrusted with the special power of inspecting the dispensaries in town.

That the officers be empowered to have free access to the Dispensaries, and to examine their stock, books of accounts and prescriptions, especially with reference to the purchase and sale of spiritual and fermented liquors.

That the supply of spiritual and fermented liquors to the Dispensaries be prohibited, except under a Pass from the Collector, and that such limited supplies be regulated and fixed by the Collector in consultation with the officers, after ascertaining the probable demand for *bona fide* medicinal prescriptions from the records of twelve months in each dispensary.

That an Index book of the dispensaries with the quantity of spirituous liquors each is authorised to purchase during one year, be kept in the Collector's office.

That the dispensaries be required to keep a separate account of the purchase and sale of spirituous and fermented liquors, in such forms as may be prescribed by the Collector.

That the purchase of spirituous and fermented liquors for dispensary use from the Bazar, except under a Pass be declared to be a punishable offence.

That the Vendors of intoxicating liquors be also made punishable for knowingly selling such liquors for Dispensary use without a Pass.

That a severe penalty be inflicted, on Chemists, Druggists and Apothecaries, who will sell spirituous and fermented liquors and intoxicating drugs, for other than *bonafide* medicinal purposes, either *with* or *without* a prescription.

That in case, any Dispensary should require an extra quantity of spirituous liquors, more than what has been prescribed for the year, an extra Pass may be granted by the Collectors, to such dispensaries on the recommendation of the officers.

That the sale and consumption of spirituous and fermented liquors by any body within the Dispensary Premises be strictly prohibited, and the offence made severely punishable.

Yours truly,
BHOOBUN MOHUN SIRACR.

8th May 1875.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P
Syud Mohamed Ali Khan, Bhaugulpore	6	10	0
Mula Meer Ali Naker, Chittagong	6	10	0
K. S. Rama Rau Esq., Mangalore	10	0	0
T. Pattaviram Esq., Trichinopoly	17	12	0
Baboo Gopeemohun Sein, Cuttack	5	0	0
,, Radhakissen Sein, Raneegunge	5	0	0
,, Gobindchunder Das, Dinagepore	13	4	0
,, Monoolall Chatterjee, Hooghly	4	0	0
,, Bhobaneechurn Surmah, Tezpore	6	10	0
,, Sarodakinker Paulit, Arrah	13	4	0
,, Woomachurn Mittra, Kurseong	10	0	0
,, Premchund Dey, Chinsurah	3	5	0
,, Hemnath Mojoomdar, Seetapoor	13	4	0
,, Shivapersad Missre, Moisadul	26	8	0
,, Mohendranath Ghose, Monghyr	13	4	0
,, Hurrochunder Ghose, Hooghly	4	0	0
,, Sarodaprosunno Biswas, Gowhatty	6	10	0
,, Kristokunt Shaw, Bouleah	13	4	0
,, Rojonykunt Banerjee, Arrah	13	4	0
,, Bonomally Chatterjee, Dinapore	6	10	0
,, Chunderunath Bhuttacharjee, Rungpore	6	10	0
,, Bullohurry Ghose, Rammagore	13	4	0
,, Kristokally Mojoomdar, Julchuck	3	2	0
,, Annodaperaid Mookerjee, Seetapoor	13	4	0
,, Bepinbehary Mookerje, Mymensingh	13	4	0
,, Porumeshuree Persad Chowdry N. S. Benares	1	4	0

Government Notifications.

Calcutta Gazette.—*May* 12, 1875.

GENERAL.—*The 27th April* 1875.—Mr. Anthony Patrick MacDonnell M.A., Acting Magistrate and Collector of the district of Durbhanga, selected for special duty, is relieved of the charge of that district.

The 2nd May 1875.—Mr. Edwyn Samuel Moseley, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Nuddea, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Durbhanga.

Mr. Charles Edward Buckland, B.A., acted as a Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector of the Second Grade from the 11th February last, the date on which Mr. J. C. Veasey joined his appointment as Assistant Settlement Officer in Chittagonge, to the afternoon of the 16th April 1875, the date on which he took charge of the Office of Junior Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

The 4th May 1875.—The following Promotions are made in the Subordinate Executive Service.—

Moulvie Mohamed Ishaq, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector in charge of the Banka Division of the Bhagulpore District, is promoted to the Fourth Grade of the Subordinate Executive Service, *vice* Mr. R. Pereir, retired.

Baboo Sharoda Prosad Chatterjea, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Bhagulpore, is promoted to the Fifth Grade of the Subordinate Executive Service.

Baboo Okhoy Coomer Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Backergunge, is Promoted to the Fifth Grade of the Subordinate Executive Service.

The following Officers are confirmed in the Sixth Grade of the Subordinate Executive Service:

Baboo Brojo Mohun Roy, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Collector, Rungpore.

Baboo Okhoy Coomer Chatterjea, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Collector, Bograh.

Mr. Cecil Ansdell Wilkins, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, in charge of the Baraset Division of the 24 Pergunnahs, is posted to the district of Patna.

Baboo Issur Chunder Mittre, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Pergunnahs is appointed to have charge of the Baraset division of that district.

The 6th May 1875.—Captain C. H. Gerbett, Assistant Commissioner, reported his departure from India, on furlough, on the 22nd April 1875.

Mr. F. M. Halliday, C.S., reported his return from furlough on the 27th March 1876.

Mr. W. V. G. Tayler, C.S., reported his departure from India on furlough on the 23rd April 1875.

Mr. W. H. Page, Officiating Assistant Commissioner, Darjeeling, is allowed furlough for eighteen months, under Section 10 (*a*) of the Civil Leave Code, together with subsidiary leave for a period not exceeding thirty days.

The 10th May 1875.—Mr. G. K Webster, Acting Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector 24-Pergunnahs, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X of 1870 for the purpose of acquiring lands at Hazrah, in Bhowanipore, required for the excavation of a Public tank.

The orders of the 9th March last, granting leave for two months to Baboo Rajendro Nath Roy, Deputy Collector, on special duty, under Section 3, Supplement F of the Civil Leave Code, are cancelled.

The services of Mr. H. J. Frew are replaced at the disposal of the Government of India in the Financial Department.

The 11th May 1875.—Baboo Sant Prosad, Sub-deputy Collector, on settlement duty in the Sonthal Pergunnahs, was on privilege leave from the 27th January to 28th February 1875, inclusive.

The orders of the 24th March 1875, granting Baboo Goloke Chunder Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Chittagong, leave for one month, under Section 21, Chapter, VI of the Civil Leave Code, are cancelled.

Baboo Sree Nath Gupta is appointed to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade, and is posted to Bongong, in the district of Nuddea.

POLICE.—*The 11th May* 1875.—Consequent on the appointment of Mr. E. B. Baker to be a Deputy Inspector-General of Police, the following Promotions in the Police are Sanctioned :—

Major William Leycester Nathornal Knyvett, to the First Grade of District Superintendents of Police.

Major Thomas Butcanshaw, to the Second Grade of District Superintendents of Police,

Mr. Donald William Dundas to the Third Grade of District Superintendents of Police.

Mr. John Mountstuart Elphinstone Gouldsbury, to the Fourth Grade of District Superintendents of Police.

Messrs. Gloster Henry French, to the Fifth Grade of District Superintendents of Police Francis Graves, to the First Grade of Assistant Superintendents of Police.

Mr. Charles Emile Fabre-Tonnerre, to the Second Grade of Assistant Superintendents of Police.

Advertisements.

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INFORMATION FOR GENTLEMEN PROPOSING TO STUDY IN ENGLAND.

A paper bearing this title has been published by the London Branch of the National Indian Association in aid of social progress in India and is signed by Miss Manning and by Mr. Hodgson Pratt (formerly of the Bengal Civil Service) the Honorable Secretaries. The paper describes the regulations in force relating to examinations for the Civil, Medical and Engineering Services as well as for the Bar, and contains information as to the cost of residence in England. This information has been compiled especially for the use of Indian gentlemen who contemplate visiting England and will probably be found very useful.

The Association has sent out copies for gratuitous distribution and these may be had on application to the Honorary Secretary British Indian Association, No. 18 British Indian Street, Calcutta. 115

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Calcutta, 7th May 1875. } GOPAUL CHANDER CHAKRAVARTI.
KRISHNA DHANA BANERJEA.
(107)

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